Suspected anthrax shuts down Pentagon's mail facilities Page 4

STARS STRIPES.

For sacrificial seeds like Alabama A&M, Madness likely brief



Navy cracks down on misuse of gas coupons in England Stripes' Internet shopping guide

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Volume 63. No. 331

Alabama A&M guard Obie Trotter

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2005

50¢

Air Force ordered to slash spending

Jumper seeks to avoid 'budget crisis' due to rising cost of wars $_{\tt Page 3}$



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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Alleged Macedonian war crimes: The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal unsealed an indictment Tuesday against Macedonia's former interior minister and a top police officer for the murder and torture of ethnic Albanians. The two are the final suspects to be charged by the U.N. court, in The Hague, Netherlands

Ljube Boskovski, 44, the former minister, and Johan Tarculovsky, 30, a senior police officer, were each charged with three counts of murder, cruel treatment and wanton destruction for the August 2001 raid on the village of Ljuboten, just outside Skopje.

Kyrgyzstan elections: Protesters held a regional and a district governor captive for a second day Tuesday in western Kyrgyzstan Tuesday, while thousands rallied in the south to protest alleged election fraud and demand President Askar Akayev resign.

The opposition accuses authorities of widespread abuses in Sunday's parliamentary runoff elections, in which Akavey secured an overwhelmingly loyal parliament. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said the vote had significant problems

Iran nuclear program: Iran on Tuesday said economic incentives may help improve foreign relations but won't permanently stop Tehran from pursuing a nuclear pro gram it says is for generating electricity but Washington believes is for weapons.

The United States agreed last week to drop opposition to Iranian membership in the World Trade Organization and to allow some sales of spare parts for civilian aircraft as part of a European plan that offers economic incentives for Iran to permanently freeze its nuclear activities.

Chechen rebel reward: Russia paid \$10 million for information that helped it track down a Chechen rebel leader who was killed last week in a special forces operation, its security service said Tuesday.

The Federal Security Service said it would offer the same reward for Shamil Basayev, the Chechen warlord who claimed responsibility for September's school hostage-taking in Russia that killed 330.

Bobby Fischer detention: Chess legend Bobby Fischer shouldn't be exempted from Japan's rule that foreigners who are ordered deported must be sent to their homeland, Japan's top immigration official said

Fischer and his supporters are asking that he be allowed to go to Iceland, where he has been granted a special passport for for-eigners, instead of the United States where Japan has ordered him sent.

Washington has sought Fischer - who became world chess champion in a 1972 match in Iceland against the Soviet Union's Boris Spassky — on charges of violating international sanctions against the former Yugoslavia by playing chess there in 1992.

States

Big Dig leaks: The independent engineering specialist who led an investigation into



Beauty queen on trial: Sharron Nicole Redmond demonstrates how she held the gun whe she shot Kevin Shorter as she backed away in her car, during her testimony Monday in Savannah, Ga. Redmond, 23, is charged with murdering Shorter in a confrontation outside the home of another woman he was dating, four months after she was crowned Miss Savannah 2003. She has admitted firing the gun, but claims it was in self-defense.

leaks at Boston's \$14.6 billion Big Dig project says he can no longer vouch for the safety of its tunnels

The project buried Interstate 93 underneath downtown Boston and connected the Massachusetts Turnpike to Logan International Airport

Engineer Jack K. Lemley said new information has surfaced that more than 40 large sections of tunnel wall contain construction defects and that fireproofing material has been damaged by leaks.

Gary Condit lawsuit: Former California essman Gary Condit has won an undisclosed sum of money and an apology from writer Dominick Dunne over his claims about the lawmaker's role in the 2001 disappearance of intern Chandra Levy, according to media reports.

In a statement, Dunne said he did "not say or intend to imply that Mr. Condit was complicit in her disappearance, and to the extent my comments may have been misinterpreted, I apologize for them," The Sacramento Bee reported.

On "ET Online" in January 2002, Dunne was quoted as suggesting Levy was taken away by someone on a motorcycle as a favor

Phil Spector trial: Prosecutors are asking a judge to permit evidence at Phil Spector's murder trial that the record producer has a history of pulling guns on women, according to court filings.

The prosecution motion, unsealed Monday in Los Angeles, lists nine occasions dating to 1972 when Spector allegedly pointed a gun at someone.

Spector, 65, who created rock 'n' roll's "Wall of Sound" recording technique, claims B-movie actress Lana Clarkson committed suicide at his home in suburban Alhambra. He remains free on \$1 million bail.

Suspicious bomb attack: Prosecutors have decided against a retrial of a former

medical examiner accused of staging a bizarre bomb attack against himself

A mistrial was declared March 1 after three weeks of testimony against former Shelby County Medical Examiner Dr. O.C. Smith in Memphis, Tenn. The jury deadlocked 9-3 for acquittal.

Smith was found in a county morgue stairwell in June 2002 with his feet, hands and head wrapped in barbed wire and a bomb hung around his neck. Smith said he was attacked by an unknown assailant who threw a caustic chemical in his face. Investigators eventually concluded the attack was staged.

Prison hostages trial: An inmate defending himself against charges he raped a guard and held her captive in a prison watchtower in Phoenix for 15 days questioned prospective jurors about whether they had seen the hostage crisis on television

Ricky Wassenaar, 41, who is serving time for armed robbery and assault, is charged with sexual assault, kidnapping, assault and attempted murder.

Laci Peterson conviction: Scott Peterson's lawyers said in court papers that newly discovered evidence could have spared the former fertilizer salesman from a death sentence in the slaving of his pregnant wife.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos said prosecutors withheld evidence that a state prison inmate claimed he heard that Laci Peterson had interrupted a burglary at a neighbor's home in Modesto on Dec. 24, 2002 — the day she disappeared. Scott Peterson claims he went fishing that day, and Geragos says the tip "points to the conclusion that Laci was alive after Scott left for the day.'

But prosecutor David Harris said the burglary happened two days after Laci Peterson's disappearance.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Terror war forcing Air Force to cut costs

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The rising cost of the war on terrorism and in Iraq is forcing major Air Force commands, including U.S. bases in Europe, to cuts costs and help avoid a "budget crisis."

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper has ordered the commands to slash spending and delay programs considered a lower priority compared to the war.

The service projects to be \$3 billion short in maintenance and operations and have a \$733 million shortfall in military personnel funding by the end of the fiscal year, Jumper told commanders in a March

Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, the top Air Force commander in Europe, already

Jumper urges USAFE, other commands to cut costs for travel, supplies and hires

has directed headquarters staff and each base in the region to reduce spending, headquarters spokesman Capt. Chris Watt said Tuesday.

"We knew this fiscal year's budget was going to be tight," Watt said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes. "Months ago commanders were advised to look closely at their individual budgets to ensure they continue to meet mission readiness as well as provide for the safety and wellness of their troops and quality of life programs."

The headquarters staff and the bases plan to reduce spending by cutting travel costs, the purchase of supplies and equipment and new civilian hires, Watt added.

Jumper issued the order to cut costs as the Bush administration's 575 billion 2005 supplemental military funding bill awaits approval in Congress. He told commanders that the top two priorities would be to pay for the war on terrorism and efforts to rotate troops for those operations.

"Facilities, business operations, travel, administrative functions, non-deployment-related training and new contracts rank as lower priorities," Jumper said in the memo. "These areas should be slowed significantly through the end of the fiscal year."

In addition to bases in Europe, other commands already are making some cuts, according to an Air Force press release.

The Air Mobility Command isn't spending as much on travel, supplies and equipment that "don't affect current combat operations," officials said. Facility projects have been limited to emergency work only.

The cuts will not affect flying operations, required maintenance and all "war-related activities"

The Air Force Space Command has delayed some contracts, facility projects, travel, equipment purchases and supplies that are not directly related to the war.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Navy monitoring misuse of coupons for gas in England

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England

—Use of Navy gas coupons in England for anything other than duty travel is not allowed and is being monitored.

This may be news to some Americans stationed in the United Kingdom, but it has been part of the agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom for nearly five decades.

"Duty driving has forever been a requirement," said Lyndon James, director of international law for 3rd Air Force at RAF Mildenhall.

After complaints last fall from Her Majesty's Customs and Excise, the government arm that deals with tax and customs issues, 3rd Air Force is now emphasizing the terms of the 1958 pact.

To that end, only sponsors can purchase the coupons, used to get gas at discount rates, for use at off-base stations and only 50 liters of coupons — about 13 gallons — can be purchased per week. On Tuesday, the 50-liter coupon book of regular unleaded gas was selling for \$32.50, or about \$2.50 a gallon.

More importantly, the coupons are to be used for duty travel only.

James said he met with Customs and Excise representatives at the base Monday to discuss the issue. He declined to discuss specifics, but said, "Our relationship is extremely good at the moment."

The agreement broadly defines "duty travel." It allows participation in activities "organized by, sponsored by or beneficial to" the U.S. forces in the United Kingdom. However, it specifically forbids "pleasure driving."

For years, Americans in the military or connected to it in the United Kingdom have used the coupons for pleasure driving. HMCE, as it is called, complained after finding coupons being used in Scotland and being told by 3rd Air Force that there would be no reason for duty travel there.

James said the agreement allows the U.S. military to "control" the program.

The coupons found in Scotland implied a lack of control. With the new emphasis, he said, the military is living up to its part of the agreement

The renewed emphasis on the rules greatly affects car travel in the United Kingdom. With the current exchange rate requiring nearly \$2 for the purchase of 1 British pound, a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline on the economy costs about \$6.

"That's bad," said Staff Sgt. Jarrod Kinner of the 100th Security Forces Squadron at RAF Mildenhall. "That's going to slow down your ability to experience this part of the world."

He spent about \$60 to fill his car at a British station recently, much more than the \$17.30 he spent to fill the same car Tuesday at the base.

Senior Airman John Martin of the 352nd Special Operations Group said he and his wife have decided against a trip to Scotland because of the gas prices.

"It's just too costly," he said.

It doesn't require a nefarious mind to realize that buying and hoarding 50 liters of coupons each week for several weeks will take the family to Cornwall or Yorkshire or Wales, for example.

James pointed out that HMCE is keeping an eye out for misuse.

When HMCE first raised the issue, he said, "Our fear was, quite simply, that if we don't control this system, someone would come in from outside and control it for us."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil



STEVE MRAZ/Stars and Strip

Five-year-old Emiliuz Davila approaches her father, Sgt. Manuel Davila, at a welcome-home ceremony for the 272 Military Police Company on Monday evening. Almost 150 soldiers returned from Iraq following a yearlong deployment. The ceremony took place at Sullivan Barracks Gymnasium in Mannheim, Germany.

272nd Military Police eagerly welcomed back to Mannheim

BY STEVE MRAZ Stars and Stripes

MANNHEIM, Germany — Emiluz Davila did not want to wait through the pomp and circumstance of the 272nd Military Police Company's welcome home ceremony Monday evening.

After seeing her father, Sgt. Manuel Davila, file into the Sullivan Barracks Gymnasium and rigidly stand at attention, the 5-year-old girl darted to her dad.

Unbeknownst to the child, a structured ceremony welcoming the 149 soldiers home from a yearlough deployment in Iraq still had to take place. Emiluz seemed bewildered that her father would not immediately respond. Soldiers near Davila repressed chuckles while trying to keep a stoic air.

"If I could have, I would have done like the little girl did," said Melenda Davis, who leapt into the arms of her husband, Sgt. Joseph Davis, after the ceremonv.

Monday's event marked the end of a crucial mission for the company, which is part of the 95th Military Police Battalion of the 21st Theater Support Command. While in Iraq, the 272nd secured Iraqi police stations and instructed Iraqis at the Iraqi Police Academy. With its return, the unit became the last major element of the 21st TSC to come home.

One of the unit's foremost missions in Iraq was to create a stable police force in order to provide a secure environment for democracy to flourish. Soldiers with the 272nd said Monday evening that the police forces they helped trained are well on their

Because of the oppression they lived under for decades, the Iraqis were not used to taking initiative and making decisions, said 1st Lt. Tricia Tyler, acting company commander.

ing company commander.

"We got to see a big improvement over there," she said. "They began actively policing rather than being reactive."

But the 272nd or "Fighting Deuce" did not complete its mission without sacrifice: Pfc. Cole Larsen died Nov. 13, when his military vehicle rolled over after being hit by a civilian vehicle in Baghdad.

The company soldiered on, however, and one of its successes was working with Iraqi police officers to provide security during Iraq's Jan. 30 election, Tyler said.

"They're proven," said Sgt. Michael Gillens, a team leader with the 272nd MPC. "With time, they'll be up to speed."

E-mail Steve Mraz at: mrazs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

B2K to judge talent show

The teen R&B group B2K will be judging students from Gen. H.H. Arnold High School in a talent show at the Taunus Theater on Hainerberg Casern at 1:30 p.m. April 7.

Admission is \$3 and all proceeds will go to the high school.

BZK group members Omarion, J-Boog, Raz B and Lil Fizz, known for their hit "Bump, Bump, Bump" featuring P. Diddy, will be at the Hainerberg post exchange to sign autographs from 4:30 to 6 n.m.

During that time fans can buy CDs and tickets to B2K's April 16 concert in Mainz.

Memorial service set

DARMSTADT, Germany — A memorial service will be held April 9 for a Department of Defense Dependents Schools retiree who died Sunday. Mary Jane "M.J." Schneider, 57, who

Mary Jane "M.J." Schneider, 57, who taught at Darmstadt Elementary School for 29 years, died of cancer at a German hospital.

Schneider is remembered for her work in promoting the German immersion program in which pupils are taught all subjects in German. She retired in September, but had been ill for a while

She is survived by her husband, Martin Meiisen.

The memorial service will be held at the elementary school at time to be de-

For details and donation information, call Russ Claus, school principal, at 06151-951-6410.

USAF crew saves fisherman

A crew from the Air Force's 85th Group rescued an Icelandic fisherman Thursday after the man suffered serious injuries aboard his vessel about 20 miles off Iceland's west coast.

The airmen assigned to the 56th Rescue Squadron at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland, plucked the man from his boat after being notified of his situation by the Icelandic Coast Guard, according to the base malbic affairs office

tion by the Icelandic Coast Guard, according to the base public affairs office. The fisherman had severed his left leg with a fishing line.

Once notified, the 56th RQS launched a HH-60G Pave Hawk heli-copter with medical and rescue personnel. The helicopter reached the fisherman's vessel, the Hauker, within 25 minutes.

Two pararescue personnel were lowered to the Hauker to stabilize the injured man and hoist him to the helicopter. The man was transferred to a civilian hospital in Reykjavik, where he is being treated for his injuries.

The 56th RQS uses the only permanently based Air Force aircraft at NAS Keflavik to perform rescue, combat rescue and reaction force response services for the 85th Group, the base and the government of Iceland

N. Korea denounces drill

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Tuesday denounced joint military drills planned this week by the United States and South Korea as preparations for an invasion of the North. It said it would beef up its nuclear arsenal to deter such an attack.

The U.S.-South Korean exercises.

The U.S.-South Korean exercises, which are scheduled to start Saturday, come amid a standoff over the communist North's nuclear weapons program.

The United States and its allies have urged Pyongyang to give up its nuclear ambitions and return to stalled international nuclear talks. The North said on Feb. 10 that it would bycott the negotiations and claimed it had nuclear weapons, escalating tension in the two-year-old crisis.

From staff and wire reports



Members of a hazardous material team walk from the Pentagon on Monday after after test results detected the presence of chemical or biological agents at the Pentagon's mail delivery building. Officials shut down the facility, which is in a separate building on the northwest side of the Pentagon grounds. Another nearby facility that handles mail for the Pentagon also was shut down.

Anthrax suspected at Pentagon

Tests detected presence in mailrooms at headquarters, nearby facility

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN

WASHINGTON — Another postal facility was closed Tuesday as concern spread over the detection of anthrax in two pieces of mail at military mailrooms. Hundreds of workers were offered antibiotics as a precaution, though no unusual health problems

were reported.

Officials said the mail in question had been irradiated, so any anthrax in them was inert when they triggered alarms at the Pentagon mail facility and another nearby facility that handles military mail.

Environmental testing was being conducted on the two military mail facilities and on a third postal facility in the District of Columbia, which was closed Tuesday because it may have handled the mail that went to the two military mailrooms.

Antibiotics were offered to some 200 workers at the D.C. facility and to workers at the full than the D.C. facility and to workers at the military mailrooms. Hospitals were told to be on the lookout for symptoms like respiratory problems, rashes or flu-like symptoms that could signal exposure to anthrax, which can be used as a biological weapon.

"This is a prudent course of action I don't hink there's cause for alarm or panic or undue worry," said Dr. Gregg Pane, director of the city's Department of Health. "We've also mobilized our strategic nation al stockpile so we have enough antibiotics available should the need arise."

At the White House, spokesman Scott Mc-Clellan said President Bush was told of the developments. "The initial testing came back positive. There was some additional testing that was done and it was inconclusive," McClellan said. "We're still waiting on more definitive results."

Also on Tuesday, a hazardous materials team was called to a building occupied by the Internal Revenue Service after a report of a powdery substance found in a letter. IRS officials said in a statement later that "initial tests were negative for chemical or biological substances."

At the Pentagon, officials on Tuesday corrected inaccurate information about when mailroom sensors were triggered over the possible presence of anthrax. Spokesman Glenn Flood said the mail

that tested positive for anthrax passed

through the Pentagon's mail handling facility on Thursday, not Monday, as he previously said. The test results on the mail did not come back until Monday.

Anthrax was confirmed in two items of mail at the two military mail facilities. The Pentagon's mail delivery site, which is separate from the main Pentagon building, was evacuated and shut down Monday. It remained closed, along with a nearby satellite facility in Fairfax Countv. Va.

Officials disclosed no information about the origins of the two pieces of mail.

Follow-up tests were being conducted at the U.S. Army Research Institute for Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., officials said. They would take two to three days to complete.

Anthrax can be spread through the air or by skin contact.

Officials noted that sometimes anthrax

Officials noted that sometimes anthrax sensors can give false-positive results. In October 2001, someone sent anthrax in

In October 2001, someone sent anthrax in letters through the mail to media and government offices in Washington, Florida and elsewhere, raising fears of bioterrorism. Five people died and 17 more sickened.

Those cases have never been solved.

$\$371,\!300$ bid for alleged 9/11 Pentagon flag

Owner auctioned flag online to raise money for cancer treatment

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va.—An American flag said to have been hanging from a construction crane at the Pentagon during the Sept. It terrorist attack received a final bid of \$371,300 on eBay Monday, but the cancer patient auctioning it said it could have brought more money.

David Nicholson, 44, of Or-David Nicholson, 44, of Or-David Nicholson, 44, of Or-

David Nicholson, '44, of Orange, Va., auctioned the flag to raise money for highly specialized treatment for his kidney cancer. But he said the construction company that gave him the flag questioned its authenticity during the 10-day online auction, bringing down its final price. "With this cancer, I don't need nothing else right now," Nicholson said Monday evening, referring to Maryland-based Facchina Construction Co.'s claims it did not have a crane at the Pentagon on Sept. 11.

As part of the auction, Nicholson was giving a letter of authenticity signed by a site supervisor with Facchina Construction.

During the auction, an attorney for Facchina sent a letter to eBay stating that it did not have a crane on site Sept. 11, it did not issue a certificate of authenticity and did not authorize any certificate.

The auction was allowed to

continue after Nicholson faxed eBay a copy of the letter.

Nicholson said he believes Facchina is doing some damage control after losing track of the flag.

"They got a lot of heat and to save face, that's what they did," Nicholson said.

Shawn Peacher, who coordinated Nicholson's auction, said the company was covering up "for essentially throwing away this piece of history."

A call to Facchina's attorney was not returned. Nicholson said he hoped the

Nicholson said he hoped the high bidder, Todd Schimmel, of Mound, Minn., would go through with the purchase. In May 2002, Nicholson owned an auction house in Orange where he found the flag tucked away among several boxes of debris from a Pentagon site under construction when the terrorist attack occurred. The flag was featured on several major news networks.

He received offers from around the world to buy the flag, including one of more than \$100,000, but instead framed it and loaned it to several colleges, schools, fire departments and

museums around the country.

When he learned he had an aggressive form of kidney cancer
Nicholson decided to sell the

flag to defray medical costs.

"I've got to do what I've got to do," Nicholson said. "Maybe that's why I found the flag."

SETAF assumes command of Afghan mission

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Stripes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The lightning bolt has given way to the lion.

The Southern European Task Force (Airborne) took over authority of Combined/Joint Task Force-76 from the 25th Infantry Division in a ceremony Tuesday.

SETAF, whose patches feature St. Mark's lion, becomes the first nondivision size element to run the



The Combined/Joint Task Force-76 color guard are shown during the transfer of authority ceremony at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

mission in Afghanistan since the United States forced out the ruling Taliban government following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"This is the most well-prepared group of soldiers that I have ever handed a mission over to in my 32 years in the United States Army," said Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the 25th ID commander. He and his headquarters staff boarded a military transport plane after the ceremony and returned to Hawaii.

Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, the SETAF commander, will lead a force of about 18,000 troops — anchored by thousands of airborne soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. But a host of other active and reserve elements from the Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy and coalition partners will fall under the command.

It's not the first time SETAF has led a joint task force in a peacekeeping operation in a country torn by years of fighting. In 2003, it headed a joint operation about a third of the size of the force in Afghanistan force to help bring peace to Liberia.

Kamiya said his troops are prepared to carry on the tasks the 25th ID and those before them began. "We are well-trained, well-resourced and are ready for the challenges ahead," he said.

Many elements of the 25th's task force still are in country and will remain until they've shown their replacements the ropes. The ISB Battalion, So8th Infantry Regiment, a part of the SETAF force in Vicenza, Italy, already is on the ground and conducting operations. But many other elements won't arrive for weeks.



At Tuesday's transfer of authority ceremony at Bagram Air Base, new Combined/Joint Task Force-76 commander Maj. Gen. Jason Kamiya, left, makes his first speech as commander. Li, Gen. David Barno, Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan commander, center, and Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, outgoing CITF-76 commander. Islaen.

Several hundred soldiers and Marines, some leaving and some newly arrived, watched the ceremony in the base's medevac hangar. Also in attendance: representatives from about a dozen coalition countries, ambassadors from the United States and Canada, Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey, Afghan government officials and Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top American commander in

Barno praised the efforts of Olson and the 25th during their year of operations.

Among the highlights he listed:
"a stunningly successful Afghan election," that produced President Hamid Karzai, the capture or death of dozens of Taliban leaders and the expansion of provincial reconstruction teams from four to 19 across the country.

Olson asked for a moment of silence for the more than 20 troops in the task force killed in the last year. An Air Force B-1 bomber capped the ceremony, flying by well under the clouds that doused the base with rain. The country's seven-year drought appears to be over. But the mission has just begun for SETAF.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Army secretary: No plans to alter number of troops

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The Army's civilian leader made his first visit Tuesday to a country where thousands of soldiers have fought the war on terror the last four years. Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey, who took office on Nov.

19, said he was visiting to see the troops in theater and talk with local commanders to make sure they had what they needed.

Asked about troop levels in Afghanistan and Iraq, he seemed to indicate that no immediate changes were planned.

"There's not a timetable on troops in either theater," he said. "It depends on conditions."

Harvey spoke to a small group of reporters just after Lt. Gen. David Barno, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, had answered a few questions.

Barno, expected to give up his command early next month, said coalition forces had achieved "many successes across the board" in the last year.

He said there were fewer attacks on coalition forces in February than in any other month in the last two years. He said he expects that to change somewhat in April and May as the weather improves, allowing anti-coalition forces more mobility.

Asked about the possibility of permanent American bases in country, Barno pointed to remarks that Afghan President Hamid Karzai made during his election campaign about wanting a longterm relationship with the United States.

He said such issues would not be decided by the U.S. military in any case, but by the respective governments of both countries.

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Maj. Gen. Kamiya vows progress in Afghanistan

By STEPHEN GRAHAM The Associated Press

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — The new operational commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan promised Tuesday to protect the country's parliamentary elections in the fall and played down the unsuccessful hunt for Osama bin Laden and other top al-Qaida and Taliban leaders.

Maj, Gen. Jason Kamiya took command H 18,000 strong U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan as American troops based in Europe rotate into the country ahead of parliamentary elections expected in September. "We will continue to focus our energy,

No. 1, on supporting the government of Afghanistan's vision," Kamiya told reporters at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul. "We have the election coming up ... and that will be one of our major focuses."

Afghanistan last year passed a new con-

Kamiya, new leader of U.S.-led coalition, puts emphasis on elections, not bin Laden stitution and held a landmark presidential "Instead, it should be focused on increas-

election won in a landslide by Hamid Karzai despite threats from Taliban militants to disrupt the ballot.

U.S. commanders say their operations helped prevent attacks on the vote. Since then, troops increasingly have focused on supporting local officials and encouraging reconstruction in former Taliban strongholds.

However, fugitives such as bin Laden and Taliban chief Mullah Omar remain at large, as hundreds of militants still mount ambushes and bombings on Afghan and foreign troops.

"The success of this mission should not be predicated upon the amount of fugitives or threat groups we remove," Kamiya said. ing the capacity, increasing the reach of the Afghan central government."

Kamiya, the commander of the Vicenza, Italy-based Southern European Task Force (Airhorne), took over from Maj. Gen. Eric Olson of the Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division at a ceremony in an aircraft hangar that also was attended by the overall U.S. commander in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. David Barno.

Barno told a news conference that the hunt for bin Laden and other militant leaders would continue, but he acknowledged that the trail remained cold.

"We don't know where he is. If we had a good definition we'd obviously have appre-

hended him," Barno said of the al-Qaida leader, who some analysts suspect may be hiding near the rugged border with Pakistan

"We will be successful eventually, but it is a very, very difficult challenge given the immensity of the territory involved, the mountainous terrain, the tough weather."

Barno, who also is expected to leave Afghanistan soon, suggested that the insurgency maintained by Taliban-led militants was lossing steam. The Afghan and American governments would decide whether can governments would decide whether u.S. military bases such as Bagram, which is being equipped with a new runway, would become permanent, Barno said, but he added that it was too early to say when U.S. troop levels might fall.

"We'll be assessing that as the security situation changes, as it gets better potentially, as the Afghan national army and police continue to grow and be more effective," he said

Debate aside, women know combat roles



PHOTOS BY VINCE LITTLE/Stars and St

Army Capt. Tristan Vasquez, 25, of Cody, Wyo., a platoon leader for the 127th Military Police Company at Forward Operating Base Falcon, Iraq, earned a Bronze Star for her actions last August during an ambush in northwest Baghdad.

Female soldiers face same stresses as male troops

Stars and Strine

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq Army Capt. Tristan Vasquez of the 127th Military Police Company isn't too fazed by the debate over what roles women should play in combat.

The 25-year-old officer from Cody, Wyo., already has a Bronze Star Medal on her résumé for valor under fire during an ambush in northwest Baghdad last August. Just days later, she helped repel an insurgent attack on the Al-Shoula Iraqi Police Station, which brought an additional commendation.

"We joke around all the time and say there are no women in combat," she said, "That's all right, though. We know what we do."

Vasquez, a platoon leader for the Hanau, Germanybased unit that functions in Iraq under the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 10th Mountain Division, is among several women who fill vital roles within the company as it patrols Baghdad. It might not be classified as combat, but for the last 11 months, women certainly worked on the front lines

"They say it's an asymmetrical battlefield," said Capt. Kevin Hanrahan, of Whitman, Mass., the 127th Military Police Company commander. "Women are not supposed to be in combat. The fact of the matter is, they are in combat."

Sitting in the rear Humvee of a three-vehicle convoy that day in August, Vasquez said they were headed to the Al-Gazzilia Iraqi Police Station — one of 19 the company monitors - when her driver noticed something odd.

"My driver, she goes, 'There's no cars on the road,' "Vasquez said. "That's when we had an RPG land in the lead vehicle and another go underneath the middle vehicle. One struck my window right where my head is. Another went over the back

"I'm very thankful for our armored vehicle. It saved my life, saved my driver's life and probably saved my gunner from either death or dismember-

Under constant gunfire in the 140-degree heat. Vasquez and others fought for nearly 90 minutes. They treated wounded soldiers and worked to save a gunner trapped under a flipped Humvee. They ultimately freed him, but he later died from his injuries. Six members of Vasquez's platoon earned com-

mendations with valor. 'It was so hot, you literally had to stop fighting to

drink water," she said. "It's amazing what soldiers can do. They're incredible individuals. We put them under so many different kinds of stresses. They do an amazing job

First Lt. Sara Skinner, 27, of Vassar, Mich., another platoon leader, who's on her second tour of Iraq, received the Purple Heart after sustaining shrapnel wounds to her neck and right arm from a mortar attack in early November.

"It went right through my combat patch," Skinner said. "It was not really anything serious. I've seen so many people seriously injured that I feel a little weird about getting the Purple Heart.

"When soldiers go through something like that, it's usually best to put them right back to work," she said. "You don't want them to dwell on things. If they take time off, they'll become more afraid to go back out: [it] gives them too much time to think.

First Lt. Amy Clements, 24, of Littleton, Colo., the company's executive officer, faced similar perils as a platoon leader during the first stage of the unit's deployment. Each time they ventured outside the wire, threats loomed from possible sniper attacks, roadside bombs, ambushes, vehicle bombs and sui-

"I faced the same thing they [male soldiers] did for five to six days a week," she said. "You witness a for five to six days a week, she said. Tou witness a lot of scarry stuff you never want to see again. You hope nobody else has to face it, either.

"As a platoon leader, part of the burden you carry."

is trying to protect your soldiers — especially the ounger ones - from seeing things like dead bodies. They are dramatic images. Stuff like that sticks with you, even the more senior soldiers. Eventually, it starts to get to everybody."

mail Vince Little at: littlev@nstrings oad mil

Age-old military woe gets modern twist when both spouses are serving in Iraq

Army 1st Lt. Amy Clements lived with her husband. Adam. also a first

lieutenant, for about four months

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq - Three female Army officers in the 127th Military Police Company symbolize the struggles and sacrifices of dual-military couples around the globe in the U.S.-led war on terrorism. Except for a few weeks here and there, Capt. Tristan Vasqu-

ez. 1st Lt. Amy Clements and 1st Lt. Sara Skinner have essentially been separated from their husbands — all infantrymen assigned to the 1st Armored Division at Friedberg, Germany - for roughly two years.

"People are making sacrifices that no one ever sees," said Capt. Kevin Hanrahan, the 127th Military Police Company commander. "Not only are they taking part in combat, they're altering their lives by being separated from their husbands. These are true American patriots."

Skinner and her husband, 1st Lt. Bruce Skinner, both graduates of the U.S. Mili-tary Academy at West Point in 2002, were in Iraq at the same time from June 2003 to March 2004 and found ways to visit each "We had about two months together in

Germany before I came back here in Sep-tember," she said. "That's the only two months we've lived together in our mar-"But that's pretty normal right now

Lots of military couples are going through the same thing. A lot of people think it's impossible." Skinner points to soldiers during World before he deployed to Iraq. War II, who often endured years of separa-

tion from spouses.

"We have it a lot better than them. We've got e-mail, phones, regular mail," she added. "Our living conditions are a lot better. Generations before us had it a lot worse and they made it through."

Married in March 2003 around the start of the Iraq war, Vasquez and husband, Jose, a first lieutenant, spent about two weeks together before he was sent to Camp Casey, South Korea. After military police training, she went to Hanau, Ger-

> Their paths crossed briefly last year during the 1st Armored Division's three-month extension in Iraq.

> "It's coming up on our two-year anniver-sary, and we've lived together for about two months and three weeks total," Tristan Vasquez said. "The rest we've given to the Army." Both are slated for a return to Iraq with-

> in the next year, and they've opted to stick with the military for the long haul.

"There's a better chance I'll see my husband here in Iraq than if I stay in Germa-ny," she added. "I'll take the chance."

Clements and her husband, Adam, also a first lieutenant, both graduated from West Point in 2002. Both assigned to different bases in Germany, they lived together for about four months before he deployed

"Every time we see each other, it's like a honeymoon. I think we're on our eighth," she said

But given the U.S. military's current climate, the three women certainly don't con-

sider themselves unique. "The three of us are not the only ones in dual-military marriages." Clements said. "There are a lot of them out there, and

they all face these same struggles and hardships. "You just have to keep working for the times you do get to spend together."

- Vince Little



thing they [male soldiers] did for five to six days a week, You witness a lot of scary stuff you never want to see again. 77

441 faced the same

1st Lt. Amy Clements

127th Military Police Company

44 We joke around all the time and say there are no women in combat. That's all

right, though.

we do. 77

We know what

Capt. Tristan Vasquez 127th Military Police Company Wednesday, March 16, 2005 STARS AND STRIPES . PAGE 7

5 killed in 3 car bombings across Baghdad

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - Three car bombs exploded in Baghdad, killing at least five people, police said, as Kurdish and Shiite leaders agreed to convene Iraq's new parliament on Wednesday, despite their apparent failure to iron out some wrinkles in their deal to form a coalition govern-

A U.S. soldier was killed by a car bomb in Baghdad and anoth-

scuba divers

of a migraine

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tary did not say if it was one of the three attacks reported by Iraqi police and eyewitnesses - one of which had targeted an American military convoy.

The car bomb targeting a U.S. military convoy exploded on a road about 500 yards from the main avenue leading to Baghdad's international airport, police Capt. Thamir Talib said.

Four civilians were killed and seven were wounded, including

two police officers, he said. The explosion took place in the Amel neighborhood about six miles from the airport.

In a report unconfirmed by U.S. officials, witnesses said some U.S. troops also were wounded. When U.S. forces arrived on the scene to evacuate them, another car bomb exploded, wounding more troops. One Humvee was destroyed and two civilian cars

were in flames, witnesses said. A U.S. military spokesman said he was checking into the report, but never replied.

Another suicide car bomb exploded in northeastern Baghdad. killing one child and wounding at least four people, including a police officer, police Col. Muhanad Sadoun said. The bomber was trying to hit a traffic police patrol but crashed into a tree. Sadoun said.

Separately, a U.S. Marine with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force died Monday in Anbar, a troubled province that has been a

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hotbed of guerrilla activity and in cludes the cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Qaim, officials said

Tuesday. Also on Tuesday, Shiite officials said they failed to reach final agreement in talks with both the Kurds and the country's Sunni Arab community. But those failures were not enough to pre-vent the 275-member National Assembly from convening.

Talks with Sunni Arabs focused on naming a parliament speaker for the 275-member National Assembly that is to convene for the first time since Jan. 30 elections. It remained unclear if they would present a candidate Wednesday.

"The Kurds want to make some amendments on the deal and we are going to finish soon. Thursday to be exact. We do not want to im pose any name from our side regarding the post of the parliament speaker. We want the Sunnis to nominate some persons for this post, but till now they have not done this," alliance member Ali al-Dahagh told The Associated Press after talks with Sunni lead-



The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,514 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,155 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reorted 86 deaths: Italy, 20: Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, eight; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungarv. Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed by small-arms fire Friday in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Nicholas E. Wilson, 21, Glendale, Ariz.; died Friday in a vehicle accident in Ramadi: assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Casey, South Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Donald D. Griffith, Jr., 29, Mechanics-ville, Iowa; was killed Friday in Tal Afar; assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.



GAO: U.S. exaggerates number of trained Iraqis

By MARK MAZZETTI Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — U.S. commanders and Bush administration officials are overstating the number of Iraqi security forces on duty, providing an inaccurate picture of the training mission that is the U.S. military's "exit strategy" in Iraq, a government audit agency reported Monday.

The Pentagon in its latest figures said 142,000 Iraqis had been trained as police and soldiers. But the Government Accountability Office said that figure included tens of thousands of Iraqi policemen who left

their jobs with no explanation.

The GAO also said the State Department six months ago ceased providing government auditors with information about the number of Iraqi troops issued flak vests, weapons and communications equipment.

The unreliability of the data coming from Baghdad makes it difficult to provide an accurate accounting of the billions of dollars the U.S. government is spending to train and equip Iraq's army and police force, a GAO official told a congressional committee Monday.

"Without reliable information, Congress

may find it difficult to judge how federal funds are achieving the goal of transferring security responsibilities to the Iraqis," Joseph A. Christoff, the GAO's director of international affairs and trade, told the House Government Reform subcommittee on international pelations

Although the Defense Department has conducted several internal evaluations of the U.S. training mission in Iraq, the GAO is the first government agency to challenge as inflated the figures the Pentagon uses to chart the progress of Iraqi troops.

Specifically, the GAO criticized the Pen-

tagon's decision to include in its totals of trained and equipped Iraqi troops "tens of thousands" of police officers absent without leave. The most recent Pentagon figures show nearly 82,000 Iraqis have gone through U.S. police training.

through U.S. police training.

"If you are reporting AWOLs in your numbers, I think there's some inaccuracy in your reporting," Christoff said after the hearing.

The progress of the training mission has become a politically charged issue, with Democrats in Congress charging that the Bush administration is misrepresenting the number of trained Iranis at work.

Italy sets withdrawal

ROME — Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Tuesday that Italy will start withdrawing its 3,000 troops in Iraq in September, Italion power groups of the property of the propert

ian news agencies reported.
Withdrawing Italian troops
"will depend on the capability of
the Iraqi government to give itself structures for acceptable security," the ANSA news agency
quoted Berlusconi as saying.

Bulgaria pullout

SOFIA, Bulgaria — President Georgi Parvanov called Tuesday for a partial withdrawal of the country's troops from Iraq, but insisted that as a coalition partner Bulgarian troops should remain there until the end of the year.

Parvanov made his remarks a week after a Bulgarian soldier was killed by U.S. troops in Iraq, and he acknowledged that the incident had renewed public debate about a possible withdrawal.

GI awaits verdict

FORT HOOD, Texas — An Army lieutenant laughed when soldiers under his command threw an Iraqi civilian into the Tigris River, saying they had a bet with another platoon over who would do that first, a former soldier testified Tuesday at the officer's assault trial.

A military judge began deliberating the charge against Lt. Jack Saville after the one-hour court-martial.

Saville, who pleaded guilty Monday to charges involving two other Iraqis, did not give the order to throw the civilian into the river that day in December 2003 near Balad, but he knew his platon sergeant had ordered the soldiers to detain a random Iraqi, former soldier Terry Bowman testified. The Iraqi survived.

Captain tried for abuse

FORT CARSON, Colorado — The trial of aU.S. soldier accused of assaulting Iraqi civilians began with a witness testifying the officer saw himself as a "sheik" or a "king" of the Iraqi desert town under his supervision.

Capt. Shawn L. Martin faces eight counts of assault and one count each of obstruction of justice and conduct unbecoming of an officer Lt. Joseph Heyman testified Monday that after an Army vehicle was damaged by a bomb, esaw Martin point a gun at the head of an Iraqi detainee and shout, "What do you know about this? If you don't tell me, I swear TII kill you."

From The Associated Press



IN THE STATES

WorldCom's Ebbers convicted of accounting fraud

· STARS AND STRIPES ·

BY ERIN MCCLAM The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bernard Ebbers, who built WorldCom from a humble Mississippi long-distance firm into a telecommunications titan, was convicted Tuesday of engineering the colossal accounting fraud that sank the company.

A federal jury in Manhattan deliberated eight days before returning guilty verdicts on one count of conspiracy, one count of

of false regulatory filings — crimes carrying up to 85 years in

prison.

When the verdict was read,
Ebbers' face reddened. His wife,
Christie, and other family mem-

bers broke into tears.

The conviction comes more than two years after an internal auditor began asking questions about curious accounting at WorldCom, touching off a scandal that eventually unearthed \$11

billion in cooked books.

Prosecution testimony at the six-week trial portrayed Ebbers, 63. as obsessed with keeping

WorldCom's stock price high, and panicked about \$400 million in personal loans that were backed by his shares in the compa-

Ehhers



Ehhore

himself took the witness stand late in the trial, insisting that he was unfamiliar with the details of accounting and knew nothing about the fraud taking place on his watch.

The star witness against him was Scott Sullivan, the former finance chief, who claimed Ebbers repeatedly ordered him to "hit our numbers" — a command, Sullivan said, to falsify the books to meet Wall Street expectations.

Sullivan, who himself has pleaded guilty to fraud, admitted to essentially masterminding the fraud — but said he did it on the clear instructions of Ebbers, who ignored his repeated pleas that the adjustments were wrong.

With the entire telecom industry suffering a dot-com hangover, the fraud was driven by soaring "line costs" — the fees WorldCom paid to smaller local telephone carriers to use their networks.

Prosecutors said the fraud stretched from late 2000 until early 2002, sometimes amounting to nearly \$1 billion per quarter in hidden expenses and improperly recognized revenue.

Pressure from the loans, the money he stood to lose and the power of the CEO's job combined to form a "perfect storm of corruption" that drove Ebbers to commit fraud, prosecutor William Johnson said in his closing argument.

"He was WorldCom, and World-Com was Ebbers," the prosecutor told jurors. "He built the company. He ran it. Of course he directed this fraud."

Ebbers gambled by taking the witness stand. He directly disputed the testimony of Sullivan, saying he became aware of the fraud only in the summer of 2002, after he was asked to leave WorldCom.

"He's never told me he made an entry that wasn't right," Ebbers said of Sullivan. "If he had, we wouldn't be here today."



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Supporters of gay marriage march down Market Street in San Francisco on Monday

Gay marriage ruling foreshadows constitutional fight in California

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge has opened the way for California to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to tie the knot, but both sides in the debate predicted a vigorous court fight

San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer ruled Monday that while withholding marriage licenses from gays and lesbians has been the status quo, it constitutes discrimination the state can no longer justify.

"Simply put, same-sex marriage cannot be prohibited solely because California has always done

so before." Kramer wrote.

Ushering out a social norm long considered sacred won't happen right away, however. Kramer's decision is stayed automatically for 60 days to allow time for appeals, and conservative groups that op-

oose same-sex marriages vowed to aphold California's one woman-one man marriage laws.

"For a single judge to rule there is no conceivable purpose for preserving marriage as one man and one woman is mind-boggling;" said Liberty Counsel President Mathew Staver, whose group represents the Campaign for California Families, one of two organizations that joined the state's actioney general's office in defending California's estisting laws.

Jackson accuser: Taunts led to lies

Classmates' acts forced denials

P The Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. —
Michael Jackson's accuser testified Tuesday that he told a school
administrator the singer didn't
molest him because schoolmates
were "making fun of me" and he
wanted them to ston.

The 15-year-old boy offered the testimony under questioning by District Attorney Tom Sneddon after Jackson attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. concluded his lengthy cross-examination of the

It was revealed during the cross-examination Monday that the boy had told Jeffrey Alpert, a dean at John Burroughs Middle School in Los Angeles, that nothing had happened to him during stays at Jackson's Neverland ranch. The conversation was prompted by a TV documentary that showed Jackson with the boy and in which Jackson acknowledged sharing his bed with children, although he characterized the encounters as innocent and nonsexu-

The boy testified that when he returned from his last stay at Neverland in March 2003, schoolmates made fun of him, saying he had been "raped" by Jackson.

He said he got in several fights as a result and had to talk to Alpert, who asked him if he had been molested.

"I told him that it didn't happen," the boy said. "All the kids were already making fun of me at the school and I didn't want anyone to think it had really happened."

Atlanta courthouse shooting suspect appears before magistrate

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Surrounded by 19 officers in a cinder-block jail room, the suspect in a rampage that left a judge and three others dead went before a magistrate Tuesday and was informed that authorities plan to charee him with murder.

Brian Nichols, his hands and ankles snackled, appeared before Cobb County Magistrate Judge Frank Cox on the same rape charge for which he was on trial Friday when he escaped from another courthouse.

Nichols spoke only once at the hearing, when Cox asked him if he had any ques"Not at this time," he said.

Officers lined the walls of the room dur-

ing Tuesday's hearing.

Authorities said Nichols was alone with

a deputy Friday when he stole her gun and then shot to death the judge presiding over his rape case and two other people.

s rape case and two other people. He also is accused of killing a federal Security cameras had been rolling Fri-

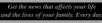
Security cameras had been found friday morning as Nichols — a former college linebacker who had been found in court earlier in the week with two homemade knives in his shoes — overpowered deputy Cynthia Hall as the 5-foot-tall officer escorted him to his rape trial. No one was monitoring the cameras.





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STARS STRIPES
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Above: Chrissie Hynde was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of The Pretenders on Monday in New York. Right: Bono and The Edge, as well as Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. were inducted as members of U.2.



'The cream of the cake'

It's a beautiful day for U2, Buddy Guy and others as rock's hall of fame welcomes newest members

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Minutes after U2 was officially bumped up to legendary status after a raucous, sentimental induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Irish quartet headed to the media room to answer questions about their momentous honor

But perhaps only a rock band fronted by Bono would first be asked about everything but music.

"Bono! ... What about the Nobel Peace Prize?" one reporter called out, querying as to whether Bono's mission to eradicate third-world debt would get him

"Rock star is already having the cream of the cake," Bono replied.

Over U2's 30-year journey from the streets of Dublin to becoming one of the world's most important rock hands there have often been times when Rono's charisma, his charitable and business efforts have eclipsed his collaborators and lifelong friends: U2's other members, guitarist The Edge, bassist Adam Clayton and drummer Larry Mullen Jr. But on Monday evening, if not always clear to oth-

ers, their rock peers recognized the collaborative achievements of perhaps the most groundbreaking rock group in the past two decades.

"Ono, dos, tres, catorce," said Bruce Springsteen,

quoting the Spanish countdown in U2's recent hit "Vertigo," as he inducted the band into the hall o fame with a loving, humorous tribute

"The translation is one, two, three, fourteen. That is the correct math for rock 'n' roll. The whole had

better equal a lot more than the sum of its parts - or else you're just rubbing two sticks together

On a night when The Pretenders, The O'Jays, Percy Sledge and blues legend Buddy Guy received key to rock's exclusive club, U2 was clearly the evening's star attraction

But they were hardly the evening's only highlight. The O'Jays are best know for their work with Philly soul producers Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff. "Back Stabbers" was a big hit in 1972, with "Love Train" and 'For the Love of Money" other well-known songs.

The Pretenders came from the same rock genera tion as U2. Ohio native Chrissie Hynde was a tough but tender role model for women, singing "Brass in Pocket," "Precious" and "Back on the Chain Gang."

"They went through all the heartache that rock 'n' roll is built on — they lost two band members and they never gave up," said Neil Young, who inducted band and sat in for a ferocious performance of

"My City Was Gone."
Guy dominated the Chicago blues guitar scene, and he was ushered into the hall by some pretty decent guitar players themselves - Eric Clapton and B.B. King. Later, both joined Guy onstage for a rollicking rendition of "Let Me Love You Baby

Frank Barsalona, credited with creating the first big rock 'n' roll booking agency, and Sire Records founder Seymour Stein were inducted in the nonperformer category.

Musicians, industry professionals and journalists vote on the inductees. Hall of fame members are permanently enshrined in Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Legendary blues performer

Buddy Guy, center, stands with B.B. King and Eric Clapton after performing during the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Backstage, Guy noted that few black blue musicians have been able to enjoy the success he has had in their lifetimes. "My mother told me before she died ... if you've got any flowers, give 'em to me now, so I can smell 'em, So y'all give this to me tonight,

I can smell this, man!

Clinton heads home after minor surgery

BY DINO HAZELL The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Former President Clinton left the hospital after minor surgery, saying he was "very grateful" to his medical team and "deeply" appreciated the thousands of get-well messages sent to him.

"I'm glad to be home and look forward to getting back to work within the next month or so," Clinton said in a statement issued Monday by his spokesman, Jim Kennedy

The 42nd president's recovery was proceeding normally, and he has begun walking each day, Kennedy said. He is expected to remain at home in Chappaqua, about 40 miles north of Manhattan, for the next four to six weeks.

Clinton underwent surgery last eek to remove scar tissue and fluid around his left lung. His medical problem developed after his heart bypass surgery six months ago.

Doctors described the operation as a low-risk procedure to relieve a problem that crops up in only a fraction of 1 percent of bypass cases. They said the combination of fluid and scar tissue had reduced Clinton's left lung capacity by 25 percent.

Surgeons removed a rind of scar tissue nearly a third of an inch thick in some places. The doctors had said Clinton would be hospitalized for three to 10 days; he was released after four.

Nearly 10,000 people have sent get-well messages to Clinton through his foundation's Web site. "Get well soon so you can be up and around to continue your wonderful contributions to this world!" said one.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton accompanied her husband to their upstate home. A motorcade of SUVs was seen leaving New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center shortly after 5 p.m.

FCC: ABC's football stunt wasn't indecent

BY JUBE SHIVER JR.

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON - Indecency critics were thrown for a loss by federal regulators Monday over their complaints about ABC's racy "Monday Night Football" skit in November featuring actress Nicollette Sheridan and football star Terrell Owens.

The Federal Communications Commission concluded "the epi-sode is not sufficiently explicit or graphic to be deemed indecent.' The segment, aired before the

Philadelphia Eagles-Dallas Cowboys game, began with Eagles wide receiver Owens in a locker room with "Desperate Housewives" star Sheridan dressed in only a towel.

Sheridan coyly asked Owens to skip the upcoming game. When he declined, she dropped the towel and was shown from behind from the waist up

Monday's ruling was the fifth

time in two weeks that the FCC rejected viewer complaints of tele-

vised indecenc On Feb. 28, the FCC ruled that ABC's telecast of Steven Spielberg's acclaimed World War II movie, "Saving Private Ryan," did not violate government indecency standards even though the film contained graphic violence and profanity. The FCC also dismissed complaints against NBC's "Will and Grace," Fox's "Arrested Development" and WB's 'Angel" drama.

The Traditional Values Coalition in Anaheim, Calif., was among the groups filing a complaint. The coalition declined to

comment

Other groups that criticized the "Monday Night Football" skit said it was just the latest example of the TV industry pushing too far in lacing shows with sex, violence and graphic language. They said Monday that they were not sur-prised by the FCC action.

Kweisi Mfume announces run for Md. Senate seat

BALTIMORE - Maryland's U.S. Senate race still is 20 months away. But the race is on

On Monday, three days after Sen. Paul Sarbanes announced he won't seek a sixth term, former NAACP president Kweisi Mfume

launched a bid to take over the seat "I don't want to play games and say I'm going to put a team together to look at this." Mfume said at a news conference. "I hope this early statement says to people I'm very serious about this. I'm in

this for the long haul? If elected, Mfume would become the first black U.S. senator in Maryland history and only the

sixth in U.S. history.

Mfume, a former five-term U.S. congressman

stepped down to become president of the NAACP, is the first in a potentially crowded field of Democratic candidates to step forward and officially declare his intentions.



The 56-year-old Baltimore native and former radio talk show host waited for ally Sarbanes to decide whether to stay or go. Sarbanes, 72, is the longest-serving senator in state history.

From The Associated Presi

IN THE WORLD



Bodyguards of Kosovo's president stand beside the damaged vehicle carrying President Ibrahim Rugova after a failed assasination attempt in

Kosovo's president survives bombing

BY FISNIK ABRASHI The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montene - Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova survived an apparent assassi nation attempt Tuesday after a bomb exploded as his convoy passed through central Pristina.

At least one person was injured by flying glass, police spokeswom-an Sabrije Kamberi said. Rugova, who was apparently unhurt, had been heading to a nearby government building for a meeting with the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, when the explosion occurred. No one has claimed responsibility.

Rugova's car was damaged, and the president was seen being transferred to another car and being driven away after the explosion. "Thank God I survived again,"

Rugova said, appearing calm before his meeting with Solana. "Unfortunately, there are still elements which want to destabilize Kosovo.3

Last year, a hand grenade was hurled at Rugova's residence from a passing vehicle. The grenade exploded in the garden without causing any injuries, and no one was ever arrested in connec-tion with the attack.

A police officer at the scene of Tuesday's explosion said on condition of anonymity that the blast appeared to have been caused by a remote-controlled explosive device.

The windows of nearby shops were shattered and a small metal garbage bin at the roadside, in which the bomb apparently had been placed, was shredded by the

NATO-led peacekeepers used a robot to sift through other garbage bins, checking for more possible bombs.

Last Friday, a small explosion possibly caused by a hand grenade occurred near the United Nations' headquarters in Kosovo, injuring one person

The top U.N. official in the prov-Soren Jessen-Petersen "strongly condemned the explosive attack against President Rugova's convoy

The attack on Rugova is "an unacceptable act of terrorism," said Terry Davis, chairman of the Council of Europe, the continent's top human rights watchdog.

The ethnic Albanian Rugova, a pacifist leader, was elected Kosovo's president in 2002 and re-elected last December.

Ringleader of U.S. Embassy bombing plot gets 10 years

BY PIERRE-ANTOINE SOUCHARD The Associated Press

PARIS - A French court on Tuesday gave the maximum 10-year prison sentence to the ringleader of an alleged plot to send a suicide bomber into the U.S. Embassy in Paris. The court also sentenced five other defendants in the case to prison terms of between one and nine years.

The group's ringleader, Djamel Beghal, 39, and the others were convicted of "criminal association in relation with a terrorist enterprise," a broad accusation commonly used in terrorism cases in France that allowed for a maximum 10-year sentence

The defendants all denied any connection to a terror plot, and Beghal testified that his confession of a plan to send a suicide bomber into the U.S. Embassy was obtained under torture after his July 2001 arrest in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. He was extradited to France two months later and retracted that

Lawyers for Beghal and Lamel Daoudi, the other leading defendant, said they would file appeals.

The investigation opened Sept. 10, 2001 — a day before the al-Qaida terror attacks on the World

Trade Center and the Pentagon.

No solid evidence of a plot was presented at the trial, leaving the three judges to untangle a trail of

Prosecutors claimed the plot was concocted in Afnanistan with leading al-Qaida lieutenant Abu Zubaydah, who was captured in March 2002. At his trial. Beghal denied ever meeting the Saudi-born Palestinian, said to be a link between Osama bin Laden and many of al-Qaida's operational cells.

In Dubai, Beghal supposedly told Dubai authorities of a plot to target U.S. interests in France and identified a Tunisian accomplice, former profession-al soccer player Nizar Trabelsi, who was to enter the U.S. Embassy wearing a bomb belt.

Beghal said the confession was extracted through torture that he claimed included inserting instru-ments such as knitting needles into his genitals.

Trabelsi was convicted in Belgium in September 2003 after admitting to plans to drive a car bomb into a Belgian air base where U.S. nuclear weapons are believed stored.

Daoudi, 30, received nine years in prison. Nabil Bounour, and Abdelkrim Lefkir, both 34, were given six-year prison terms. Bounour, of Algerian origin, was also forbidden to return to France once his sentence was served.

Rachid Benmessahel received a three-year prison term, while Johan Bonte, Beghal's brother-in-law, was sentenced to a year behind bars.

G5 nations agree to share terror info

BY CIARAN GILES The Associated Press

GRANADA, Spain - Interior ministers from five major European powers agreed Tuesday on ways to speed the exchange of information on terror suspects. monitor the Internet's use by terrorists and criminals and tip each other off when weapons or explosives are stolen.

At the sixth meeting of the informal group set up in 2003, ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain also agreed to increase cooperation on the exchange of data on fingerprints, DNA, criminal records, missing people, unidentified bodies and stolen vehicles.

The objective is to make sure that the police forces of the Group of Five countries should have immediate access to the information that they need and which other members possess." the ministers said in a statement wrapping up their two-day meeting.

Spanish minister Jose Antonio



British Home Secretary Charles Clarke, center, speaks Tuesday with Giuseppe Pisanu of Italy in Granada, Spain, where G5 interior ministers agreed to set up a network of contact groups to exchange information on international terrorism.

Alonso said, "No country will be able to refuse to give another one any information required."

Alonso said the exchange of information on terror suspects concerned "people for which we have a rational suspicion that they were involved in terrorist activities, people who have been trained in al-Qaida camps and people who need to be watched very carefully."

"We need to know who those people are," he said

Abu Sayyaf among 28 dead in Philippine prison uprising

BY OLIVER TEVES The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines braced for retaliatory attacks after some of the country's most hardened terror suspects were killed in a failed prison uprising that left 28 people dead, most of them inmates killed in a barrage

The dead included three leaders and a fourth member of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for deadly attacks and ransom kidnappings in which hostages have been beheaded.

The crisis began with an Abu Savvaf sus-

pect snatching a guard's weapon and quickly turned into a prolonged standoff with at least 10 of the group's top suspects leading the rebellious inmate Three guards and 24 inmates died - 22

in Tuesday's assault to take back the prison. A police officer also was killed, his body discovered under debris hours after the operation ended.

Sweat-soaked police marksmen filed out of the building after the assault to the applause of bystanders, escorting prisoners stripped to their underwear and with hands clasped behind their heads.

"The terrorists got what was coming to

them," Ignacio Bunye, press secretary for President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, said in a statement. "The crisis team gave them all the chances to peacefully surrender. The raid began after authorities gave the

inmates a 15-minute deadline to surrender - an ultimatum that came after hours of fruitless negotiations. Six officers were wounded in the assault, which saw some detainees scale down walls inside the compound as thick smoke billowed out.

The inmates had agreed to surrender after their failed jailbreak Monday, but the deal broke down when they demanded food first, prompting civilian negotiators to leave in frustration The bloody assault raised fears of retalia-

tory attacks. Even as Arroyo congratulated police, an Abu Sayyaf leader warned of repercussions.

"To you people, you don't have to bring the war to Mindanao," Abu Sulaiman told DZBB radio, referring to the Muslim home land in the south where the military has launched offensives against militants. "We will bring it right into your doorstep.

The inmates had warned of bombings if there was an assault on the jail. No one doubted that the Abu Sayyaf has the means and will power to carry them out.

Two pedestrians walk Sunday in front of a poster with a portrait of a top war crimes suspect Gen. Ante Gotovina in Knin, Croatia If Gotovina is not arrested by Wednesday, the EU has threatened to postpone membership talks with Croatia.



Membership in jeopardy

War crimes suspect may hinder Croatia's talks with EU free and sends him in a clumsy

BY EUGENE BRCIC The Associated Press

PAKOSTANE. Croatia is halfway Nebojsa Perica through peeling a portrait of a top war crimes suspect from a street pole when a gust of wind tears it

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Efforts to remove signs of support for retired Gen. Ante Gotovina in his southern, coastal home-

dash to gather it up.

town have taken on an urgency akin to that of the government's bid to capture him. If Gotovina is not arrested and

surrendered to the U.N war crimes tribunal by Wednesday, the European Union has threat-ened it will postpone membership negotiations with Croatia.

The government claims that it cannot catch Gotovina as he is not on Croat soil. Police said last week that they have combed the entire country, checking more than 2000 people, homes and other property without any clues to his whereabouts.

Not everybody is convinced.

Del Ponte, who is reportedly fed by foreign intelligence data, recently claimed that Zagreb was reluctant to track down the former French Legionnaire and that "structures within the govern-

ment" have helped to shelter him. The impasse has divided Europe into two camps ahead of the decision on whether to onen member. ship talks as planned on Thursday

A group led by Britain and Scandinavian countries maintains that negotiations should be delayed until Gotovina is caught The other side, led by Austria and Croatia's neighbors, maintain that talks should start as envisioned as the country has done its utmost to cooperate.

A single veto on Wednesday will be enough to scuttle the planned talks

Pakistan president: Forces were close to taking Bin Laden

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Pakistani security forces came close to capturing Osama bin Laden in an operation about eight to 10 months ago, but the terror mastermind eluded arrest and his trail has since gone cold, Pakistan's president said Tuesday.

Though President Gen. Pervez Musharraf did not say where the operation took place, the comment was the first official indication that bin Laden has recently been in Pakistan. Intelligence officials have said they believe he is hiding in the rugged mountains that straddle the border with Af-

"There was a time when the dragnet had closed and we thought we knew roughly the area where he possibly could be," Musharraf said

"That was, I think, some time back ... maybe about eight to 10 months back," he said, adding: "But after that, this is such a game, this intelligence, that they escane. They can move and then you lose contact.'

Musharraf and other Pakistani leaders say the silence is a sign they have destroyed al-Oaida's network here.

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war on terror Its security forces have captured more than 700 terror suspects, including some key al-Qaida opera-

Bin Laden was last seen in a video released just before the U.S. elections in November. The video was dropped off at the Islamabad office of the Arabic news channel al-Jazeera, though there was no indication from the tape where Osama was when he recorded it.

In the 18-minute videotape, bin Laden threatened fresh attacks on the United States



An anti-American demonstrator wears a Lebanese flag around his face while dancing around burning anti-American placards during a protest near the U.S. Embassy in Aukar. Lebanon.

Protesters in Lebanon march on U.S. Embassy

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon - About 2,000 pro-Syria demonstrators denouncing what they said was American interference in Lebanon marched toward the U.S. Embassy in a Beirut suburb Tuesday, and scores of riot police and soldiers used barbed wire to block the approaches to the compound

The protesters, waving Leba-nese flags and chanting, "Ambassador get out! Leave my country free!" stopped at the barbed wire blocking the road about 500 yards from the fortified hilltop compound. The crowd did not try to break through.

A day earlier, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in the capital in the largest anti-Syrian protests yet since international pressure on Damascus to withdraw its troops has intensified.

Pro-Syrian groups have blamed the United States for pressuring Syria into deciding to withdraw its 14,000 troops from Leba-

They also reject a U.S.-sponsored U.N. Security Council resolution demanding that Syria with-draw and dismantle militias, a reference to the militant Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah.

In Washington, President Bush left open the possibility that the militant Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah could be part of the political mainstream in Lebanon despite its terrorist past.

"We view Hezbollah as a terror-ist organization," Bush said after an Oval Office meeting with Jor-dan's King Abdullah. "I would hope that Hezbollah would prove that they are not by laying down arms and not threatening peace

Hezbollah has been involved in Lebanese politics for over a decade, with an extensive social welfare program and nine lawmakers in parliament. But it has steered away from major deci-sion-making in national politics as its guerrilla army focused on fighting Israel. Lebanon consid-ers Hezbollah a legitimate resistance movement that led the guerrilla war against Israel's 18-year occupation of southern Lebanon.

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Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim.

FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416 E-MAIL: News: pews@mail.orb

E-MMLR. News. news@mail estripses.osd.mil. Lettlers: lettlers/@mail estripses.osd.mil. CENTRAL 0FFICE: 529 14th Sheet NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-783-0900 or civ. (+1) (202) 761-0900. Fax (+1) (202) 761-0890 EUTORAL DIEECOTOR: David Masseralia, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-763-0945 or civ. (+1) (202) 761-0845.

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chudvi@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-mail: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mi

Lisa Burgess, tel civ. (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jon Anderson, tel ci SUIGESS, 181 Ctv. (+ 1) (1/US) 952-1617; JULI PRINCEIDIN, CH. (703) 692-1926; and Leo Shane, 529 14th Street NW, St Washington DC 20045-1301; tel civ. (+ 1) (202) 761-1183 v. (+ 1) (202) 761-0890; e-mail: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil sonj@stripes.osd.mil and shanel@stripes.osd.mil

Printed in Germany by Hurriyet A.S. Zweingniederlassung Deutschland Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestampa

Store and Strings (IISPS 017757) is nublished daily (eyent Ohr Slats and Shipes (IDFS 017522) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 certs daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Shipes central effice, 252 14th St. NW, Sules 350, Washington CC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage and at Washington CC. Protinstates: Form address changes to European Stars and Shipes, Unit 24400, APO AC 02121.

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Compages and Practic Status and Strapes 2000.

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'Old soldiers' can contribute

"Old GIs will serve in Iraq, but wars aren't uniform" (column, Joe Volz, Feb. 18) provided valuable insight on how the Army and Marines are signing up retired soldiers and Marines to beef up overworked forces.

Sounds very interesting. First of all, I meet the basic criteria, have many years of experience operating fuel trucks and supply-related storage, receipt-and-issue activities. I would, however, prefer to serve in a civilian capacity for the simple (vet important) reason "to earn tax-free dollars or euros" in Iraq or Afghanistan.

I have seen wars both as a youngster in the rubble of World War II Europe and at exotic Vietnam locations. The large multimillion-dollar corporations in overseas lo-cations who pay big bucks to foreigners should also consider experienced veterans physically and mentally capable to provide the same service, if not better

Some of us old soldiers are willing and able to make our contributions to a very worthy cause - our future. Talk to us, you might be surprised at the results

Oscar Dreikorn Pozzolengo, Italy

Others deserve badge

Under the criteria for the new Close Combat Radge it states a soldier must be assigned to a unit that is purposely organized to routinely conduct close combat op erations or engage in direct combat.

I know there are many people who state that they came under fire and fired back but their mission was not what was stated above. I am in no way discounting the efforts put forth by units who have come in contact with the enemy during their missions of moving supplies and so forth. But there is a different story for the chemical company I served with as a platoon leader.

This past year, I, along with other soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers, have been attached to a field artillery and armor unit. Our company fought under the same mission statement as the field artillery and armor platoons.

Tell us what you think

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But due solely to military occupational specialty classification, those chemical soldiers who engaged in direct ground combat with the enemy alongside the field artillery and armor soldiers are not eligible for what their comrades will be awarded.

I understand we are a small exception to the rule, but all soldiers and officers with an infantry mission, regardless of MOS and branch, should be eligible for the

> 1st Lt. Dorothy Butala Baghdad

Give them the badge, too

I joined the Army to be a communicator. However, if I am placed in a situation as those prescribed to meet the criteria for the Close Combat Badge, then why can't I and other support military occupational specialties receive the same award as the combat engineer or field artillery soldier we are taking fire with?

So, is it right that because I'm not in what is considered a combat arms MOS, I don't deserve the award? What's next, the Medal of Honor or Bronze Star will only be awarded to certain MOSs?

We are all soldiers and riflemen first,

serving the same great nation. Why not get the same awards, period?

Spc. Scott A. Morong Camp Bucca, Iraa

Vacations not why we serve

I'm disheartened to see that now even my fellow senior noncommissioned officers are failing to recognize our Army's pur pose and mission.

In "Europe's 'hardship tours' " (letter, Europe and Mideast editions, March 6), the writer stated that he'd like to take his family to visit various historic European countries for only the price of gasoline. I have some news for that reader: Vacations are not the purpose of stationing our military personnel overseas (shocking, I know)

The biggest reason American troops are stationed in Germany is because there used to be a perceived threat of a Soviet invasion of Central Europe. Now that that particular threat no longer truly exists. our forces are being realigned to more-effective stations elsewhere.

I'll admit it was great to visit Denmark and Poland when I was stationed in Germany, but the opportunity was rare, especially with having to take care of my family first. The Exceptional Family Member Program makes for some difficulty in a lot of cases for soldiers to even take their families over there, since many dependents re-quire certain kinds of care that are not available, or are required to live within a short distance of the nearest hospital.

Oh, and I do hope your car is in spectacu lar shape if you're headed that way. The vehicle inspections over there were often brutal, especially for older cars.

If you want to go on vacation instead of an assignment, then wait until your leave and earnings statement tells you that you've got 20 years in service, then retire and go wherever you please. Or just take some leave and do what the rest of the world does: Pay for it. In the meantime, please mind the fact

that the Army isn't here to serve you; it's the other way around. Army Sgt. 1st Class James A. Stevens III

Camp Page, South Korea

Fighting the computer spies in cyberspace The Dallas Morning News

hink you're the only person looking at your bank account on your computer screen? Think again. And chalk it up to

spyware, which amounts to someone peering into your private life online. Spyware is a software code that unscru-

pulous advertisers and criminals secretly dump on computers to learn more about online users. Once there, it can do an incredible amount of mischief.

It can crash your computer, allow a

crook to hijack your system, steal your financial records or even your identity. And you may be none the wiser until it's too late

Rep. Mary Bono, R-Calif., is taking direct aim to outlaw this unethical, ruthless practice. We applaud this much-overdue legislation. The measure takes a hard line against malicious access to computers without crippling technology that is useful to online advertisers. That's no small balancing act.

The bill bans any deceptive attempt to collect personal information or to hijack a

computer. It also requires users of tracking technology to tell consumers in plain English that they are tallying broad marketing information.

The bill empowers the Federal Trade Commission to levy hefty fines against Web site operators who secretly install spyware or don't give users the chance to keep their online activities private.

The legislation now goes to the full House for a vote later this year. Tough legislation is needed to control this ruthless sector of cyberspace; this bill is a step in the right direction.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury







OPINION

In an era of one superpower, we're all safer

BY ARTHUR HERMAN

errorists swarm into Iraq; North Korea plays nuclear blackmail; Syria and Iran hold hands in public: crowds fill Beirut's streets: the shooting of an Italian journalist provokes outrage across Europe Is this a world being made safe for democracy or a world on the brink? Some, especially Europeans, say the latter, arguing that this is what happens when the planet is stuck with just one superpower. Echoing France's Jacques Chirac, they yearn for a more "multipolar world," where an all-powerful United States can't play the bully.

Nonsense. The fact is, a unipolar world is a safer world and has been historically. For more than 100 years, from the defeat of Napoleon to the start of World War I, Britain was the world's lone superpower. Its Royal Navy enabled it to do the heavy lifting across the globe that no one else could or would, just as the U.S. military does today. Despite an inevitable crisis or two, the world enjoyed unprecedented peace, prosperity and stability. Now, with so many worried about the United States dominating the world, it's worth passing along the lessons Britain learned in its years as lone superpower.

Be prepared to make enemies. "How glorious is the title of

'Englishman,' " wrote a Victorian-era Royal Navy officer after the mere presence of his ship off the coast of Italy ended riots in Rome and other cities, "and vet we are not loved." Don't expect to be. The world's other powers will never be happy about the global order you impose. Few will dare to challenge you overtly, but they will scheme

For decades after Napoleon's defeat, Britain fought to tug the world in a new, progressive direction. Britain's support of national self-determination in South America and southern Europe often put it at odds with Spain and Russia. France, which Britain had saved from dismemberment at the Vienna peace congress in 1815, plotted to reverse Britain's naval supremacy. Yet that supremacy protected France's business interests around the world. It also preserved a balance of power in Europe, which allowed France to remain a great power until World War I. As Iraq shows, in power politics no good deed goes unpunished.

Be prepared for the long haul. Britain's first step in creating a new world order in 1815 was declaring war on the Atlantic slave trade - akin to today's war on terror. It put together a coalition of the bribed and coerced just to get a final treaty (Spain and Portugal reoff). Nations that still had slaves dragged their feet, especially the United States For more than 40 vears, the Royal Navy fought to plug the outflow of slaves from Africa amid daunting obstacles. Successive British governments persisted out of a sense of moral duty.

This arduous effort, which many dismissed as a failure for decades finally paid off, and by 1870 one of the worst scourges of European domination of the planet had come to an end. In world leadership, persistence pays.

Your best ambassador is your military. For more than a century the Royal Navy was not only the instrument of the Pax Britannica but its reassuring symbol. Wherever its ships anchored, travelers, merchants and journalists of every nation felt safe. Royal Navy captains became the modern equivalent of knights in shining armor

Today, the men and women of the U.S. armed services fill the same role. Look at their essential role in providing relief to tsunami victims (just the kind of job the Royal Navy did for a century) in full view of the Muslim world. Isolated incidents such as Abu Ghraib do not change the fact that U.S. troops make up the best military force in history. Let them be the face of the Pax Americana, in



Supporters of Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal, Pakistan's six-party religious alliance, chant slogans against America during a rally last week in Islamabad, Thousands gathered to condemn President Gen, Pervez Musharraf's government and his association with the United States.

peacetime and in wartime. Finally, watch your back. Ex-pect challengers to arise, those who will envy your power and look for opportunities to overtake you.

After World War I, British politicians tried to save money by slashing the size of the fleet. It was the crucial mistake of the 20th century. In the power vacuum Britain left in the Pacific, in slipped imperial Japan; in the Mediterranean, in slipped Mussolini's Italy; in Western and Central Europe, Hitler's Third Reich. It would take Pearl

Harbor to awaken the giant that would eventually take Britain's place as the world's policeman, the United States.

The only thing worse than a world with a lone superpower is one without a lone superpower. Despite its protestations, the world knows that — and that in a crisis, it's the Americans, and only the Americans, who will save the day.

Arthur Herman is the author, most recently, of "To Rule the Waves: How the British Navy Shaped the Modern World." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Iceland cool to idea of diminished use of its language

BY WILLIAM ECENBARGER

hand the agent my brottfarerspjald, step on board Icelandair Flight 642 Just before takeoff, the flight attendant stands before us clasping a seat-belt buckle and droning through the oryggisbunadur um bord. Some five hours later, we begin our descent into Revkjavik At the airport, I get my passport stamped at vagabraeftirlit, make a quick refresher stop in the snyrtingar, exchange dollars for kro nurs at the gjaldeyrir and pick up tourist information at the upplysingapjonustu fyrir feroafolk.

I have come to this nation of 280,000 inhabitants, who speak to each other in a language that is incomprehensible to 19 999 of every 20,000 people on Earth, to see how they are holding up against the onslaught of English Iceland's linguistic patriots go to incredible lengths to preserve their language. Foreign words are ruthlessly screened out by a special agency, which also invents words for new things and ideas.

Icelanders have a strong belief in their own national greatness, and that conviction is rooted unshakably in language and words. Literacy isn't a problem here; it's a given Icelanders believe that men and women should turn a verse as easily as they turn a profit, and both endeavors are considered important to one's well-being.

Iceland has more bookstores per capita than any other nation in the world ("better shoeless than bookless" is an unofficial national motto). The most important tomes are the sagas. Written in the 12th and 13th centuries, these are the great prose narratives of medieval Iceland, bloodthirsty tales of Viking derring-do. Icelandic schoolchildren read their national literature exactly as it was written hundreds of years ago. Modern Icelanders speak virtually the same language as their forefathers of the 10th centurv. Tomorrow morning's Revkjavik newspathe ancient sagas — that would be like this newspaper using Chaucerian English.

Language preservation worked nicely for centuries because Icelanders lived diphthongs apart from the rest of the world, but in recent decades the cultural floodgates have been opened. English is everywhere on televisions, VCRs, the Internet and commercial products.

It's part of a global problem: About 400 million people speak English as their first language, an additional 700 million or so use it as a second language and a billion people more are struggling to learn how to speak it. Meanwhile, other languages are disappearing at the rate of two per month. There are about 6,800 languages in the world, but the expert consensus is that 400 of them will soon be extinct.

Why care? "When you lose a langu the late linguistics professor Kenneth Hale once said, "vou lose a culture, intellectual

wealth, a work of art. It's like dropping a bomb on a museum."

The front line of Iceland's preservation

battle is in Reykjavik, the home of the Icelandic Language Institute (Islensk Malstod); this government agency was set up in 1964 to devise new words when existing language proves inadequate. When AIDS first came to national attention in Iceland, the main discussion was what to call it rather than how to prevent it. The institute does not believe that AIDS should be called AIDS, and thus the disease is officially known as alnaemi, an ancient Icelandic word meaning "totally vulnerable." which the institute settled on after some three years of study.

The preservationists often resurrect words from the sagas. A computer is called tolva, a fusion of the old Icelandic words for number and prophetess, and a TV screen is a skjar, a sheep's placenta once used by a sight, a since s placetta once tased by farmers as window panes. My favorite is fri-opjofur, the word for pager, which means "thief of peace."

went, I heard English spoken. Though a written language can be nurged of foreign words and phrases, policing how people speak is another matter. Many young Icelanders can-not be bothered with a language that is a minefield of subjunctive, inflections and gender (the number 2 has three genders).

In one sense, the Icelanders have no one to blame but themselves. Just as they have earnestly defended their language, they have with equal enthusiasm made sure that every schoolchild has a computer and learns English. Thus Microsoft sees no need to translate Windows into Icelandic. The publishers of popular books are beginning to skip translation as well. It's what the Icelandic language purists call a sjalfhelda - a Catch-22. I fear the handwriting is on the wall - and it's in English.

William Ecenbarger was a longtime reporter at The Philadelphia Inquirer. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

By BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Playing your cards right

Charles Weber of Alexandria Va., noticed an alarming "change in terms" alert on his latest Cit-ibank MasterCard bill: "For each purchase made in a foreign currency, we add an additional finance charge of 3 percent of the amount of the purchase after its conversion into U.S. dollars.

Weber, in addition to being angry, was curious, "How prevalent has this policy become?" he asked us in an e-mail

Increasingly prevalent. The nonprofit advocacy group Consumer Action last spring surveved 45 companies that issue credit cards and found that 26 were adding currency conversion fees - up from 17 the year before. What you need to know:

- When converting overseas charges into dollars. Visa uses the wholesale exchange rate plus a 1 percent conversion fee. MasterCard and American Express add 2 percent.
- The companies that issue Visa and MasterCard may add another fee, typically 1 percent to 3 percent. (American Express issues its own cards.)
- Issuing companies that don't add an extra fee: Capital One, MRNA and numerous smaller banks and credit unions.
- Among issuing companies that do charge an extra fee: Bank of America, Citibank, Chase Manhattan and Wells Fargo.

Our advice: No matter how you spend money overseas, there is no way to avoid foreign currency exchange fees. Credit cards remain a good option — if you play your cards right

From The Washington Post

1,229.11 1,060.72 S&P 500 683.36 548.29 S&P MidCap 656.11 515.90 Russell 2000 12,108.93 10,268.52 DJ Wilshire 5000

Prepaid cell phones attracting attention

DALLAS -- Two-year contracts are fine for cell-phone users who have good credit and don't mind being tied to a single company and a single wireless plan for that long.

But what about people who don't have the credit, the bank account or the desire to sign up for a long-term contract with the big cellular companies? The answer for an increasing number of users: pay-as-you-go cellu-

lar service Parents buy prepaid service for their children. Senior citizens use it for emergencies

Low-income people and immigrants without bank accounts pay for the service in cash.

'I think prepaid wireless is one of the most exciting things that has happened in telecom in a while," said Judy Reed Smith, chief executive of consulting firm Atlantic-ACM.

the traditional pay-as-you-go plan, a customer can buy a card, similar to long-distance cards sold at convenience stores, drugstores and general retailers. Each card comes with a set amount of minutes.

In hybrid plans, customers can have their credit cards or bank accounts charged each month to buy a set number of minutes. But they can quit anytime they want rather than be tied to a contract. No matter what type, almost

+6.6

-.42 +9.27 +1.54 +14.64 -3.26 +11.17 -.64 +10.15

all prepaid services offer the same attractions - no contracts, no credit checks, no charges for early termination and usually no long-distance charges.

Stephen Wellman, executive director of the industry newslet-ter FierceWireless, said prepaid wireless began taking off when Virgin Mobile decided to bring its prepaid service to the United

Now most big wireless companies offer some form of prepaid

In 2003 5.5 million of the 16.9 million prepaid customers came from "mobile virtual network operators" such as Virgin Mobile or Tracfone Wireless Inc., she said.

By 2009, she said the number of prepaid users will boom to 41.3 million, with 32.8 million, or about 79 percent, coming from those resellers.

Annual revenue will soar as well, she said: from \$400 million in 1997 to \$7 billion in 2004 to \$22 billion in 2009.

Smith said the cards suit callers in challenging financial situations, people who are "credit-challenged, unbanked cost-conscious," she said.

The unbanked aren't just peo ple who can't get banking. It's the people who only write a cou-ple of checks a month, who don't trust banks, who would rather go to their 7-Eleven and cash their check and put part of it in their prepaid phone and part of it in something else like a prepaid card or have cash," she said.

Encoding files with trick fonts is risky

Ask Jim

To keep my documents away from prying eyes at the of-fice, I saved some of them in the Wingdings font that turns each letter into some kind of graphic symbol like an asterisk, arrow or a Greek letter. Later I was able to convert it

back from Wingdings to New

Times Roman or another readable font. At home I was trying to protect my document

from other spying eyes and thought I would save the document in Marlett font, Unfortunately now I am unable to convert it back to Times New Roman any readable font. Can you help? A. You stumbled into a

land mine with that particular font to replace letters in a document with gobbledy-

The strange markings that Marlett displays are used not to make visible symbols like those Wingdings but rather to handle elements of the Windows screen display such as scroll bars, buttons, arrows and the like

When one selects all the text in the Times Roman font and then uses the Format/Font command to translate them into Marlett, they can only be translated back into Times Roman as a meaningless small empty box for every letter.

The good news is that some other Microsoft fonts used for bookkeeping can be used to make a Times Roman-to-Marlett trans-fer recoverable. For example, if you select all of the characters in

Marlett and then translate them into the boldface cursive Microdot format, they will be legible again

That not only fixes your problem, but also gives you an additional code trick to frustrate pry-

Q. I have a new Dell Pentium 4 operating on Windows XP and I have lost my icons on the opening desktop screen and do not know how to restore them.

Can you help me? A. You will notice that if you give the cursor arrow icon a right-click while hovering over that blank desktop screen a menu of commands will pop up. At the top is one for Arrange Icons. Move the arrow to that and it will open up a set of

choices that include one called "Show Desktop Icons. Click that line to place a check mark alongside it and then sit back as your hard drive churns a bit and the desktop gets redrawn

with the icons intact

It is worth adding that this check mark should be in place by default and so something you did must have changed it. It also is worth adding that many people are glad to learn about this ability to toggle the deskton icon display because it can be another handy tool to shield what you are doing from the view of passers-by.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at jcoates@tribune.com or via snail mail at the chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611. Ques-tions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at www.chicagotribune.com/ askiim.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates
Euro costs\$1.3743
Dollar buys€0.7276
British nound \$1.97
Japanese yen (March 16)101.00
South Korean won (March 15)975,00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)0.37698
British pound\$1.9147
Canada (Dollar)1.2059
Denmark (Krone)5.25
Fovot (Pound) 5.79
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7995
Hungary (Forint)183.27
Iceland (Krona)59.005
Israel (Shekel)4.307
Japan (Yen)104.93
Kuwait (Dinar)0.29203
Norway (Krone) 6.1161 Philippines (Peso) 53.90
Philippines (Peso)53.90
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)
Singapore (Dollar)1.6292
South Korea (Won)997.71
Switzerland (Franc)1.09
Thailand (Baht)38.33
Turkey (New Lira)1.2935
(Military exchange rates are those
available to customers at military bank-

NASDAQ AMEX MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) Vol (00) Last Chg | Name | 353028 | 2.93 | +.01 | SPDR | SemiHTr Vol (00) Last Chg Name Vol (00) Last +.01 SPC Engy +.36 SemiHTr +.54 SP Engy +.11 iShlapan +.17 SP Fncl +.23 iShRs2000 +.156 iShRs2000 +.156 iShRs2000 +.10 MadCatz g +.10 DJIA Diam 63.85 7.61 17.61 26.53 61.28 20.75 33.63 43.11 10.92 29.85 126.02 67.00 1.91 13.15 1.81 +.01 +.06 -.05 Oracle + 30 CMGI

Monday's Market Summary

Dow Jones Industrials Dow Jones Transportation Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite Amex Index Nasdaq Composite

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	×√T ×Ch
Alliant Technosystem		17	72.20	+.38	+10.
Armor Holdings		17	41.20	44	-12
Boeing	1.00	25	57.71	+.22	+11
Computer Sciences		15	46.14	+.61	-18
Franceered Sun Sys	.07	19	55.47	+.41	-6
General Dynamics	1.60	18	109.68	+1.30	+4
General Flectric	88	23	36.22	+.40	- 4
Halliburton	.50		42.00	+1.62	+7.
Harris Corp.	.48	30	69.57	+1.52	+12
Allied Signal	.83	23	38.90	+.38	+9
L-3 Communications	.50	22	75.72	+1.00	+3
lockheed Martin	1.00	21	59.88	+.39	+7
NorthroG s	.92	18	54,40	+.11	+
Raytheon	.80	42	39.19	+.55	+
Rockwell Intl.	66	23	59.18	+1.24	+19
Segua Corp.		34	55.00	+.89	-10
Texas Instruments	.10	25	26.26	+.06	+6
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	77.93	+.55	+5
United Technologies	1.76	19	102.98	+1.62	



available to customiers at milltary bank-ing facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the For nonlocal currency exchange rates (Le, purchasing British pounds in Germa-ny), check with your local military bank-ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-nity facility. Commercial rates are inter-lepting currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is PRECIOUS METALS

\$440.10

INTEREST RATES

www.livedeal.com. code or by city.

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Sites do your bidding

NEW YORK - Selling your stuff at online auction is easy unless you're trying to figure out how you could possibly ship that riding lawnmower, plastic play-house or queen-sized futon across the country.

Some items just don't sell unless you have a local buyer. And as a bidder, let's face it — there are some items you just don't want to buy sight unseen. Like an \$800 "gently used" designer wedding dress or a \$1,000 mahogany bed frame.

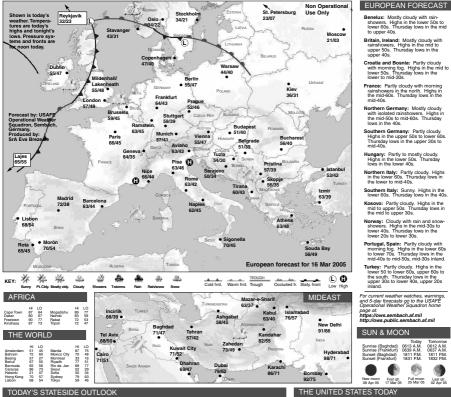
If you want to buy or sell locally in the States, you might check out the new auction Web site You search items within your ZIP

Listings on LiveDeal are free, and you can post items for sale or rent, and services offered. You can also post listings for things you want. Unlike other auction Web sites, you're al-lowed to list personals and job

If you just want to get rid of an item, www.freecycle.org is a Web site that lists local groups of "freecyclers" - people who use Internet message boards to post items they'd like to give away. (The idea is to reduce the amount of useable items ending up in landfills.)

Each freecycle group oper-ates differently. Generally you can post items you'd like to give away or items you're looking for, as long as you're not offering anything illegal. Specific groups may have other restrictions. such as whether you can post

The big difference from other sites is the "free" in "freecy-cling"—you cannot sell or trade anything.



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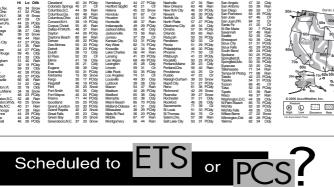
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Kansas Ci Key West Knoxville Lake Char Lansing Las Vegas Lexington Lincoln

> Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS STRIPES Your Hometown Newspaper

PAGE 18 · STARS AND S

Smoking ban review

PROVIDENCE — The Health Department probably will take another look at how it interprets a new smoking ban, a department lobbyist said.

The ban temporarily exempts bars with fewer than 10 employees. The department has been counting as employees volunteers for

groups such as the Knights of Columbus who don't serve alcohol.

Med school to upgrade

RICHMOND — Virginia Commonwealth University plans to hire more than 80 research faculty members over the next six years and spend millions on a laboratory building and other space.

Fifteen years ago, VCU ranked 34th among the country's 121 medical schools in its share of National Institutes of Health research dolars. The school's ranking slipped to 60th in 2003.

Mistrial in nurse case

SAN ANGELO — Already delayed several times, the capital murder trial of a nurse accused of killing 10 elderly patients was over almost before it began as a judge declared a mistrial.

About 15 minutes into opening statements, prosecutor Ralpid Guerrero told jurors Monday that they would hear evidence against Vickie Dawn Jackson, but that no one — not even Jackson herself — may ever be able to provide a motive.

Defense attorney Bruce Martin interrupted Guerrero, objecting that the remark improperly indicated Jackson would testify. The defendant in a criminal case is not obligated to testify.

The judge granted a new trial, now set for March 29. "These things happen. Some-

times there are procedural or other problems and you have to start all over," Martin said.

Jackson is accused of killing 10

Jackson is accused of killing 10 patients, including her third husband's grandfather, by injecting them with a drug used to temporarily halt breathing. She could get life in prison if convicted.

Gov. to go door to door

WW CHARLESTON — Gov. Joe Manchin says he will go door to door this summer to encourage West Virginians to approve a \$5.5 billion bond sale.

Proceeds would be used to erase shortfalls in pension programs for teachers, State Police troopers and the judiciary. A special election is set for June 25.

Superintendent needed

LANSING — Applications to become Michigan's next K-12 schools superintendent are due April 8.

The State Board of Education set the deadline to replace Tom Watkins, who resigned under pressure Jan. 29.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm doesn't have the power to hire or fire the schools chief, but she wanted Watkins gone after they feuded in public over his leadership skills.



ROUNDUP Cold slows syrup flow

OH CHARDON — Maple syrup producers are worried a cold snap this week will cause another delay in maple sugaring season in northeast Ohio.

Maple trees were tapped for the sugar-laden sap when temperatures rose earlier this week, but the change in the weather could delay production for at least another week. Trees need warm days to stimulate san flow.

Gold Rush plates end

AK ANCHORAGE — The Division of Motor Vehicles has stopped making Alaska's Gold Rush Centennial license plate.

The blue, white and yellow plates depict prospector hordes who came to Alaska in the 1890s.

The plates began appearing on

who came to Alaska in the 1890s. The plates began appearing on vehicles in 1998. Motorists needing new plates will have to settle for the standard blue-on-yellow

version with the Alaska state flag. Student hangs in video

GA SAVANNAH — A college student was seriously injured while acting out a hanging for a film project

Daryl Goins and other students were making a movie for class at his home Saturday night. The script had been approved by a professor, but Goins, 20, allegedly decided to change the ending.

"There was a suicide scene at the end, and he changed the technique," Geoffrey Jowett, dean of



He's got a good grip
Jason Legler, of Pierce, Colo.,
rides a bull named Cat Daddy,
during the Houston Livestock Show
and Rodeo in Houston.

students for Savannah College of Art and Design, told the Savannah Morning News. "It was a hanging, an accident based on the stunt"

Details were sketchy, but during the scene Goins somehow hit his head. Jowett said other students gave him CPR. He was hospitalized in serious condition.

Police have the video and are investigating. The school is reviewing whether to pursue disciplinary action.

Goins was enrolled in an Introduction to Video class. Students at the college are required to take a safety course before filming, sign a contract confirming they have read all safety regulations and have scripts approved by a faculty member.

Wettest winter ever

NM ALBUQUERQUE — New Mexico experienced its wettest winter in recorded history, the National Climatic Data Center in North Carolina said.

in North Carolina said.

The statewide average of 4.33 inches of precipitation from December through February is the most for the state since records began to be kept in 1896. It also was the eighth-warmest winter on record the data center said.

Stolen truck 'hot' item

FALL RIVER — Police arrested a man who was driving a stolen vehicle that was "hot" in more ways than one — the pick-up owned by Cardinal Health Nuclear Pharmacy Services contained radioactive material.

The pickup was reportedly stolen Tuesday while it was parked in Seekonk. It was later spotted by two police officers about 10 miles away in Fall River.

Fall River Sgt. Roger LaFleur said he and the other officer followed the truck cautiously because of its reportedly radioactive contents and slick road conditions. They took the driver into custody after the pickup stopped.

A city hazardous materials team that inspected the truck determined the five containers carrying suspected radioactive material had not been opened.

Freedom offered for sex

PA CARLISLE—A police officer coerced three women into having sex with him by threatening to arrest them for prostitution if they refused, a prosecutor said.

Cpl. Kenny Johnson of the Middlesex Township, Cumberland County, police was on trial Monday on charges including rape, sexual assault and obstruction of justice

Johnson, 43, of North Middleton Township, was arrested in a sting operation in which a female probation officer posed as a prostitute. He was suspended without pay.

A Newville-area woman who said she was a prostitute at truck stops testified that over three years beginning in 1998, she had sex with Johnson in his police car, at the police station and at his home. Johnson told her she wouldn't get arrested when he was no duty, and had even driven her to a truck stop where she worked as a prostitute, she told the jury.



Irish tradition

Piper Phil Cormier of North Reading,
Mass., a member of the Ancient Order of
Hibernians, performs at a St. Patrick's Day parade in Clinton, Mass.



Up close and personal One of two Maine black bears in their compound at the Palm Beach Zoo in Florida. The zoo recently held its grand opening of the new black bear exhibit. The twin bears, named Lewis and Clark, are now 4 years old and weigh about 420 pounds. They came to the zoo when their mother was killed by a car when they were about 2 months old and weighing 13 pounds.



See how easy it is Scott McArthur, 14, of Elkins, W.Ya., prepares to snowboard down a ramp of snow at the Capitol in Charleston, W.Ya. The West Virginia Ski Area Association put on a snowboarding demonstration to promote the state's five abjine ski resorts.



Going up in flames

An unidentified Pittsburg, Kan., firefighter battles flames engulfing a
build go miles south of Fort Scott, was. The Pittsburg department, located
on heavily damaged at least six buildings in the city's historic district. The buildings shown was built in 1890.



A five-letter word for winner on the road to becoming a c-h-a-m-p, Tyler Hinman, 20, of Troy, N.Y., works on the Division A championship crossword puzzle in Stamford, Conn., during the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. Himman, a junior at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, is the youngest winner of the national crossword puzzle championship.



Proud grandpa
U.S. Army Stf. Sgf. Ervin Henschel
holds his 6-month-old granddaughter, Alaina Royer, for the first time
at the 728th Main Support Battalion Lock Port, Pa. Henschel had
just returned from Afghanistan.



Finding a dry seat Fernanda Sales, of Framingham, Mass., sits on the backrest of a bench partially covered in snow in front of stadium seating at Butterworth Park in Framingham, Mass. following a winter storm.

Keep pledge in English

MILLERSVILLE — A
Maryland teen is protesting his school's decision to broadcast the Pledge of Allegiance in languages other than English during
National Foreign Language Week.

Patrick Linton, a ninth-grader at 10d Mill High School in Millersville, said he and some other students sat down rather than stand when the pledge was read in Russian over the school's public address system. "This is America, and we got soldiers at war," said the 15-year-old. "When you're saying the pledge in a different slanguage which nobody understands, that's not OK."

School system spokesman Jonathan Brice said the readings in Spanish, French, Latin, Russian and German were "just a way to connect what's going on in the classroom."

Charges for dog attack

SPOTSYLVANIA — A prosecutor said he will seek involuntary manslaughter charges against the owner of three pit bulls that fatally mauled an 82-year-old woman.

Attorney William Neely said he will ask Spotsylvania County grand jurors next week to indict Deanna Large, 36, in the death of Dorothy Sullivan, who was killed as she walked her dog in her Parltow yard

Sullivan and her small dog, Buttons, were attacked and killed by three wandering pit bulls, all of which have since been killed.

Large admitted owning one of the dogs, but Neely said the ensuing investigation revealed that she owned all three and had been warned to keep them under better control.

Visitors bite snake lure

SWEETWATER — Attendees of the World's Largest Rattlesnake Round-Up leave with a range of memories, the most enduring perhaps being the odorous snakes.

"It stinks, especially when they're butchering them," said Scott Pardee, 16, of Abilene, as he looked into an area where men chopped off snakes' heads.

It's the smell of success to people such as Lynn Adams, executive director of the Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce.

Now in its 47th year, the roundup draws 30,000 people to Sweetwater with a population of about 11,500. Visitors "not only come to see the rattlesnakes but to spend money," Adams said with a smile. The event, which continued through Monday, generates humdreds of thousands of dollars in economic impact, said Kati Bewley, a Sweetwater Jaycee.

Picketers chanted down

COLORADO SPRINGS — Ten members of a Topeka, Kan., church famous for its demonstrations against the gay community received a rude welcome when they picketed Palmer High School.

More than 500 people turned out with banners and chants to condemn the Westboro Baptist Church demonstrators as messengers of hatred, not Christian love.

On a public sidewalk, Westboro church members raised their anti-gay signs. Across the street, hundreds faced them shouting "No

more hate" and other chants.

N.J. promotes kindness

NI TRENTON — A kindler, gentler New Jersey? In a state where one former governor once joked that the official bird was "the middle finger," Assemblymen Jon M. Bramnick and Gordon Johnson think a few more random acts of kindness couldn't hurt.

A resolution under consideration in the state Legislature is encouraging residents to join "a campaign toward civility, kindness and respect to all."

Last year, then-Gov. James E. McGreevey declared a Random Acts of Kindness Day.

Car sale while stumping

DES MOINES — He came to sell President Bush's plan to overhaul Social Security. Instead, U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley sold his beat-up old car.

The 1986 Olds Delta 88 sold for \$356 to an Iowa factory worker. The gray Oldsmobile, with 172,511 miles, paint peeling off the body and a Volkswagen hubcap on one wheel, was used in political advertisements last year during Grasslev's re-election campaien.

The deal started last month at a town meeting, where Grassley was explaining Bush's Social Security plan. Roy Nelson, 41, was there with his four daughters. One of them stood up and asked him about the car because she was turning 16 within a month.

"Grassley told her that the book value was \$357, 'but today I'd sell it to you for \$356,' "Nelson said. "I looked at him and said, 'Sold.' "

Cheaper gas woes

GRAND ISLAND — Some customers may have thought it was simple justice. Alas, it was technology that prevented a gas station's sign from displaying any price \$2 or higher.

Byron Wheeler, who owns a

Byron wheeler, who owns a Byco gas station, said he kept prices below the \$2 mark for five days last week because the station's electronic sign couldn't display a "2" in the dollar position.

Wheeler said the company is upgrading the sign, which has been in place at the station's convenience store since the business opened in 1991. But until the sign can be brought up to speed, Wheeler is displaying only the time and temperature.

Observation deck coming

NY NEW YORK — A 70-story-ligh observation deck at Rockefeller Center will reopen this fall after a \$75 million renovation, the co-owner said.

The deck, atop 30 Rockefeller Center, has been closed since 1986, when the Rainbow Room restaurant expanded into its space. It is expected to draw about two million visitors a year, according to Tishman Speyer Properties, co-owners of Rockefeller Center.

At 850 feet above street level, it will be the city's second-highest observatory (the highest is atop the Empire State Building, which is about 200 feet higher).

The observation deck atop the World Trade Center was the city's highest until the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Stories and photos from wire services

	AFRTS Television Schedule Updated sports listings are available on the first Screbbaard page in the sports section or AFR's Web alle at http://myafn.dodmedia.oad.mil/ WEMPSRM_WMRIS_1265 WEMPSRM_WMRIS_1265								
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	6, 2005 (AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)	
9:00	Stanley "Mockingbird Scaf"	Movie * * "Blue Moon" (1999,	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Tennis Pacific Life Open Day	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!	
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Arthur "My Music Rules."	Drama) Sharon Lawrence. Inter- nal and external pressures strain	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor	From Indian Wells, Calif. (Taped)	Food 911 Sensible Chic	Headline News ESPNews	
10:00	Reading Rainbow (EI)	a couple's marriage.	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	Tile O helly ractor		Fashion File	Pacific Report	
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:46) Movie ***	1	That '70s Show	Nightline	SportsCenter	E! News Live	That '70s Show	
11:30	Stanley	"Marathon Man" (1976, Sus- pense) Dustin Hoffman, Lau-	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	Nightly Business Report	1	The King of Queens	Arrested Development	
12:00	Dora the Explorer The beach.	rence Olivier, Roy Scheider.	Headline News	The Casino	Fox and Friends First	NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at Dallas Maver-	That '70s Show	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition Drunk driver.	
12:30	The Wiggles Bob the Builder	Movie ** "Beach Blanket	Judge Judy	The District "The Voice Inside"	American Morning	icks. From American Airlines	Girlfriends Charmed "A Knight to Remem-	Lost "All the Best Cowbovs	
13:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Bingo" (1965, Comedy)	Today Spring skirts.	I ne District . The voice Inside.	American Morning	Center in Dallas. (Taped)	ber" A Knight to Hemem-	Have Daddy Issues"	
14:00	Blue's Clues	Frankie Avalon, Annette Funi-		Pacific Report	1		Strong Medicine	Pacific Report	
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	cello, Deborah Walley.		The Tonight Show With Jay	1	SportsCenter		The Tonight Show With Jay	
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	(2:52) Movie *** "Rudy" (1993) Sean Astin. Ned Beatty.	Sylvester & Tweety	Leno			Any Day Now "Life"	Leno	
15:30	Growing Pains Pokémon "Snack Attack"	A working-class teen dreams of	Buzz Lightyear of Star SpongeBob SquarePants	Late Show With David Letter- man	FOX News		Third Watch "Act Brave"	Late Show With David Letter- man	
16:00 16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 2 of 2)	admission to Notre Dame.	Batman Beyond "Shriek"	The Late Late Show With	rox news	SportsCenter	THIRD WATCH ACT DIAVE	The Late Late Show With	
17:00	Doug "Doug's in Debti" (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio "Di-	Jeopardy!	Craig Ferguson	FOX News	7	Law & Order "Who Let the	Craig Ferguson	
17:30	The Wild Thornberrys	ane Lane" Diane Lane.	Headline News	Dennis Miller		NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup	Dogs Out"	Dennis Miller	
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Coming Attractions	ESPNews		FOX News	Series UAW-Däimler Chrysler 400. From Las Vegas Motor	The Simpsons		
18:30	Rugrats Even Stevens "Thin Ice"	Entertainment Tonight Movie ** "The Mexican"	Headline News That '70s Show	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	DaySide With Linda Vester	Speedway in Las Vegas.	Everybody Loves Raymond American Idol	Countdown With Keith Olber- mann	
19:00	Kenan & Kel "Fenced in"	(2001, Adventure) Brad Pitt, A	Arrested Development	Access Hollywood	DaySide With Linda Vester	(Taped)	American iou	Access Hollywood	
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Dead Uncles	mob lackey goes to Mexico to retrieve a priceless antique.	Extreme Makeover: Home	Headline News	FOX News		The O.C. "Pilot"	Headline News	
20:30	and Vegetables"		Edition Drunk driver.	Entertainment Studios.com				Entertainment Studios.com	
21:00	Degrassi: Next	(:15) Movie ** "Drop Dead Gorgeous" (1999) Kirsten Dun-	Lost "All the Best Cowboys Have Daddy Issues"	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Tennis Pacific Life Open Women's Quarterfinals. From	National Geographic Explorer	The Hot List	
21:30	Degrassi: Next	st. Minnesota beauty queens	Headline News	Headline News Good Morning America	ļ	Indian Wells, Calif. (Taped)	Friends	Headline News Good Morning America	
22:00	The Cosby Show Home Improvement	compete for a coveted fitle.	The Tonight Show With Jay	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Seinfeld "The Doll"	Good morning America	
23:00	Touched by an Angel "A	Movie ** * "Rush Hour"	Leno		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart		
23:30	Clown's Prayer"	(1998, Action) Jackie Chan.	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date		
				THURSDAY, MARCH 17					
00:00	Doug (EI) The Wild Thornberrys	(11:00) Movie *** "Rush Hour" (1998) Jackie Chan.	Late Show-Letterman Access Hollywood	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House	Headline News NBC Nightly News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame Bear in the Big Blue House	
1:00	The Fairly OddParents	(12:51) Movie *** "Pure	Snorts	Oobi	ABC World News Tonight	College Basketball NIT Tour-	American Idol	Oobi	
1:30	Rugrats	Country" (1992) George Strait.	Oponio	Wheel of Fortune	CBS Evening News	nament First Round Teams	AIRCINGII IOOI	Wheel of Fortune	
2:00	Even Stevens "Thin Ice"	A country singer struggles with the burden of stardom.		Dr. Phil	The NewsHour With Jim	TBA. (Live)	The O.C. "Pilot"	Dr. Phil	
2:30	Kenan & Kel "Fenced In"				Lehrer				
3:00	Gilmore Girls "Dead Uncles and Vegetables"	Movie ** "The Mexican" (2001, Adventure) Brad Pitt. A	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced, (Live)	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	NBA Basketball Minnesota Timberwolves at San Antonio	National Geographic Explorer	Oprah Winfrey	
3:30 4:00	Degrassi: Next	mob lackey goes to Mexico to	De remounded. (Eve)	NBC Nightly News	The Fox Report With Shepard	Spurs. From the SBC Center in	Friends	NBC Nightly News	
4:30	Degrassi: Next	retrieve a priceless antique.		Judge Judy	Smith	San Antonio. (Live)	Seinfeld "The Doll"	Judge Judy	
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	(:15) Movie * * "Drop Dead	ABC World News Now	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood	
5:30		Gorgeous" (1999) Kirsten Dun- st. Minnesota beauty queens	ESPNews	(:25) Guiding Light		SportsCenter	Caribbean Workout	(:25) Guiding Light	
6:00 6:30	Barney & Friends (EI) Clifford the Big Red Dog (EI)	compete for a coveted title.	CBS Evening News NBC Nightly News	(:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	(:41) ESPNews	Body Shaping TIPical Mary Ellen	(:13) General Hospital	
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio "Di-	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NASCAR Nation	The View	Legend of Tarzan	
7:30	Bob the Builder	ane Lane" Diane Lane.	Bear in the Big Blue House	1 ' '	l -			Aaahh! Real Monsters	
8:00	The Wiggles "Haircut"	Coming Attractions	Oobi	Rocko's Modern Life	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	Sabrina, the Animated Series	
8:30	Dora the Explorer Stanley	Entertainment Tonight Movie "Borrowed Hearts" (1997,	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	NBA Inside Stuff	Tavis Smiley Hardball With Chris Matthews	Tennis Pacific Life Open	30-Minute Meals	NBA Inside Stuff	
9:00 9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Drama) Roma Downey, Hector El-	Ur. Phii	Jeopardy! Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Women's Quarterfinals. From	Low Carb & Lovin It	Jeopardy! Headline News	
10:00	Franklin	zondo, Eric McCormack.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	The O'Reilly Factor	Indian Wells, Calif. (Taped)	Design on a Dime	ESPNews	
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(:45) Movie * * * * "Raging	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block	1		Style Star	Pacific Report	
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(:45) Movie **** "Raging Bull" (1980, Biography) Robert De Niro, Cathy Moriarty. Oscar-		Two and a Half Men	Nightline		E! News Live	Two and a Half Men	
11:30	Stanley Dora the Explorer	winning study of former baxing	(:17) General Hospital Headline News	(:25) Will & Grace Alias "Mea Culpa"	Nightly Business Report Fox and Friends First	NBA Baskethall Seattle Sonics	The King of Queens That '70s Show	(:25) Will & Grace Desperate Housewives "Sus-	
12:00	The Wiggles "Lilly"	champ Jake LaMotta.	Judge Judy	Allee Wed Culps	I OA GIIU FIIRIIUS FIISL	at Detroit Pistons From the	Girlfriends	picious Minds"	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ** "Aldrich Ames:	Today William Shatner: St.	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	American Morning	Palace of Auburn Hills in Auburn Hills, Mich. (Taped)	Charmed "Brain Drain"	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)	Traitor Within" (1998, Drama) Timothy Hutton, Elizabeth	Patrick's Day.	tion "Viva Las Vegas"		r www. r mio, miur. (rapeu)		tion "Viva Las Vegas"	
14:00	Blue's Clues Pool party.	Pena, Joan Plowright.	1	Pacific Report	1	Canada Candas	Strong Medicine	Pacific Report	
14:30 15:00	Barney & Friends (EI) Funniest Home Videos	(2:52) Movie * * "Entrap-	Legend of Tarzan	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	l	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "Love Is Love"	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
15:00	Growing Pains "Dirt Bike"	ment" (1999, Suspense) Sean	Aaahh! Real Monsters	Late Show With David Letter-		College Track and Field 2005	Party Bay How Love to Love	Late Show With David Letter-	
16:00	Pokémon	Connery. A veteran thief's new partner has a hidden agenda.	Sabrina, the Animated Series	man	FOX News	NCAA Indoor Championship.	Third Watch "Sex, Lies &	man	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	· -	NBA Inside Stuff	The Late Late Show With		From Fayetteville, Ark. (Taped)	Videotape"	The Late Late Show With	
17:00	Doug (EI) The Wild Thornberrys	FilmFakers "The Mukashi Code"	Jeopardy! Headline News	Craig Ferguson ESPNews	FOX News	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Armed Forces"	Craig Ferguson ESPNews	
17:30 18:00	The Wild Thornberrys The Fairly OddParents	Ebert-Movies	Headline News ESPNews	College Basketball Teams to	FOX News	College Basketball NCAA	The Simpsons	College Basketball Teams to	
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Be Announced. (Live)	[Tournament First Bound	Everybody Loves Raymond	Be Announced. (Live)	
19:00	That's So Raven	Movie * * * "Changing	Two and a Half Men	j	DaySide With Linda Vester	Teams TBA. From Boise, Idaho, Cleveland, Indianapolis or Tuc-	American Idol Wild-card per-		
19:30	All That Music group 3LW.	Lanes" (2002, Drama) Ben Af- fleck. A car accident puts two	(:25) Will & Grace]		son, Ariz. (Live)	formers are chosen.		
20:00	7th Heaven "Charity Begins at Home"	men on a collision course.	Desperate Housewives "Sus- nicious Minds"	College Basketball Teams to	FOX News	College Basketball NCAA	The Practice 'Goodbye'	College Basketball Teams to	
20:30 21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(8:54) Movie + + + x "The	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	College Basketball leams to Be Announced, (Live)	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Tournament First Round	48 Hours Mystery	College Basketball leams to Be Announced. (Live)	
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Straight Story" (1999, Drama)	tion "Viva Las Vegas"	,	Octobro D Willi Glieberg Silliffi	Teams TBA. From Boise, Idaho,			
22:00	The Cosby Show	Richard Farnsworth, Sissy Spacek, Jane Galloway Heitz.	Headline News	Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Cleveland, Indianapolis or Tuc- son, Ariz. (Live)	Friends	Good Morning America	
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay Leno		L		Seinfeld "The Friar's Club"		
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Moth- er's Day"	Movie * * "Star Trek: Neme- sis" (2002) Patrick Stewart.	Late Show-Letterman		Connected: Coast to Coast	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Daily Show-Jon Stewart Blind Date		
23:30		(250c) i dinon chevidit.	Late 200M-Fetterman	l	ı	raruori the interruption	Dilliu Mate	I	



FACES

When fans get fanatic

Famous figures often forced to deal with out-of-control devotees

> BY DERRIK J. LANG The Associated Press

NEW YORK ev're out there

Catherine Zeta-Jones, Sheryl Crow and Mel Gibson recently faced theirs in court. Anna Kournikova's took a nude swim to find her. Andrea Evans feared hers for a decade.

They're celebrity stalkers, perpetrators of an emotional crime that's often - but not always - the result of mental illness

Despite a recent rash of cases, experts say the act of celebrity stalking isn't increasing, but stars are more willing to go to police when confronted. And, of course, the media is more likely to cover subsequent arrests and trials. All this has led to specialized police units and even entire businesses aimed at dealing with a troubled few

Evans was playing soap tart Tina Clayton on "One Life to Live" in the 1980s when her stalker showed up several times at her Manhattan set. He once slashed his wrists outside the studios, then used Evans' name as his next-of-kin

"All of a sudden, I went from a nice happy-go-lucky life to having regular conversations with the police," Evans said. "This was before people were that aware. There was a great disbelief that here this man was trying to harm me and the police could do nothing about it.'

After three years of living in terror, Evans quit "One Life to Live" and dropped out of public view. She wouldn't be seen on a soap again until 1999.

Following the murder of "My Sister Sam" actress Rebecca Schaeffer in 1989 and incidents like Evans', the government, Hollywood and the world began to recognize celebrity stalking about 1990.

As many armchair sleuths have learned from "CSI," material crimes like burglary and murder leave copious amounts of physical evidence - but stalking is harder to prove. Witness the love-struck Crow fan who was acquitted last November after ardently pursuing the singer for 15 months, claiming he communicated with her telepathi-

"Stalking is much more nebulous, much more of a chal-lenge," said John Lane, a former Los Angeles Police De-partment detective. "It is very difficult to investigate."

cally and even visiting her sister and father

Laws now exist in all states to combat stalking in some form or another. In Los Angeles, the LAPD's Threat Man-

agement Unit exclusively tackles stalking. In 2004, it handled 60 celebrity cases. That's typical, according to the dled 60 celebrity cases. Tha unit's leader, Det. Jeff Dunn.



"I think there's a rise in reporting," said Dunn. "Early in the '90s, there was reluctance for fear of negative publicity. I don't think they were widely reported. Now in 2005, you can't turn on the TV without seeing a story about some sort of stalking. It doesn't carry the negative stigma anymore." In recent years, the likes of Pamela Anderson, Madon-

na, Steven Spielberg, Nicole Kidman, David Letterman and Gwyneth Paltrow have claimed stalkers. In the past few weeks alone, people were convicted or pleaded no contest to stalking Gibson and Zeta-Jones.

And in the Anna Kournikova case, a man was arrested Jan. 30 after swimming nude across a Florida hay toward Kournikova's \$5 million estate, then turning up on the pool deck at the wrong house and yelling, "Anna! Save me!"

Dunn said for every celebrity stalking case that's splashed across headlines, 20 are never heard about. Those type of cases often fall to Lane, who after helping establish the LAPD anti-stalking unit started his own person-al security firm, Omega Threat Management Inc. It's one of several such companies that take care of celebrities threats — for a price.

Much like murder, mental health plays a major part in the crime of stalking. But stalking isn't always the result of a mental disorder.

"Most of the time, what you've got is an individual who is lonely or socially incompetent," said Mace Benson, a psychiatrist at the University of California-Los Angeles who's worked on many stalking cases.

Celebrity stalkers

■ Dec. 8, 1980: Mark David Chapman shot and killed John Lennon. He's now serving a life sentence and has been denied parole three times

■ March 30, 1981: John Hinckley Jr. attempted to assassinate President Ronald Reagan to gain actress Jodie Foster's attention. He was found not guilty by rea-

son of insanity and remains in a psychiatric hospital.

■ June 1, 1989: Margaret Ray pleaded guilty to breaking and entering talk show host David Letterman's house. Diagnosed with schizophrenia, she served 10 months in prison and 14 months in a mental institution. In 1998, she committed suicide.

■ Jan. 8, 1996: Robert Hoskins convicted of assault, stalking and threatening to kill Madonna. He wassentenced to 10 years in prison.

July 11, 1998: Jonathan Norman caught breaking

into the home of director Steven Spielberg with the intention of raping the director. He was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Sept. 5, 2000: Mark Bailey sentenced to 10 years'

probation and ordered to attend counseling twice weekly after sending threatening letters to Brooke Shields.

■ Dec. 14, 2000: Dante Michael Soiu convicted of stalking Gwyneth Paltrow. He was sent to a high-security mental facility after a judge found him insane.

— The Associated Press



entin Tarantino

Brits laud Tarantino, others

Quentin Tarantino, director of cult moves "Pulp Fiction" and "Reservoir Dogs," was named Film Icon of the Decade at an awards ceremony in London

Tarantino was among a cast of Hollywood and British movie talent recognized Sunday during the Empire Awards, which were voted for by more than 12,000 read-

ers of Empire Magazine Accepting his award, the 41-year-old announced plans to retire from movie direct-

"I hope to give you at least 15 more years of movies, I'm not going to be this old guy that keeps cranking them out," Tarantino said

Other award recipients included Matt Damon, who was voted Best Actor for his role in "The Bourne Supremacy." The action thriller also was named Best Film.

Julie Delpy was awarded Best Actress for "Before Sunset," and Kate Winslet's performance in "Eternal Sunshine of the Snotless Mind" won her the Best British Actress Award

Beatty takes jabs at Arnold

Warren Beatty, an actor who has been politically active for four decades, has some words of advice for fellow film star and now Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger should raise taxes on the California rich and "terminate" his

fund-raising and dinners with "the brokers of Wall Street" and the "lobbyists of K Street," Beatty said. Receiving a political award Friday night,

the actor who played Sen. Jay Billington Bulworth in the 1998 movie, "Bulworth," said: "Arnold. Be the action hero I know you can be. Be strong. Stand up and con-front the wealthiest 1 percent of Californians who have benefited \$12 billion a year from the Bush tax cuts."

Beatty received the third annual Phillip Burton public service award Friday from the Santa Monica-based Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights for a lifetime of political work. Burton was a liberal San Francisco congressman who died in 1983.

Stories and photo from The Associated Pres

Horoscope

A super-lucky aspect involving the moon, Jupiter and Neptune promises there is much to gain from talking about your wants, desires,

dreams and goals. People need to help one another Even if others haven't the physical or intellectual resources, the mere inten tion of helpfulness cau miraculous connections to occur. So speak up.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 16). Though careful planning brings certain goals to hand, leave room in your life for lucky things to just happen, too you're a favorite of the universe, and if you trust, you will be granted special gifts. This month features a flirtation: May brings love worth changing your life for. Leo and Cancer are lucky romantic connec-

tions. Your career takes off in June. ARIES (March 21-April 19). Extra motivation is needed to get through this challenging day. Affirm to yourself over and over (100 times

is barely enough) that you CAN do it. In fact, nobody does it better! TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Big, profound questions inform a

million small decisions you'll make today about how to be and interact in your world. How will the world be a better place because you were in

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Someone near you is handing out points for being smart. But remember that being good is more important. The great genius scientist Albert Einstein said, "The most important human endeavor is striving for morality in our actions."

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

The critics are at large. Try and see the strength in others even while their weaknesses are being pointed out. If you can find a reason and a way to be joyful, your joy is contagious

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll have the chance to be mature though childish planets play in your psyche, making it easy for you not to be. Consider that love with strings

attached isn't love at all. It's business, really, and more about cause and effect

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your emotions are not unlike the

Holiday Mathis

muscles in your body. They can be exercised to be more flexible, stronger and more toned. Dealing with

children, or adults who act like children, gives you a real emotional workout today

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). When does obsession become unhealthy? Someone or something you desire could be draining vital energy from other areas

of your life. If you give your power away, the only one who can get it back is you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Planets provide plenty of distractions and opportunities for you to scatter your energy. If you can stay focused now, when it's challenging, you really can't lose. So stay on pur-

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). It's better to remain a mystery to certain people. Let them project themselves, making up their own story about who you are. You'll find humor in the scenarios they come up with

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Since who you love has such an enormous impact on the rest of your life, it makes sense to pour your time and energy into that area Put all your emotions and your imagination toward creating a better relationship

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Address that unattained desire that's been on your list of New Year's resolutions for years now. Invest yourself in finally having this. The more defined your goal is, the more

likely you are to obtain it. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Avoidance might work in the short term, but sooner or later, you'll have to face your fear. The weak person prays to be sheltered from adversity. while the strong one prays for the courage to conquer it.

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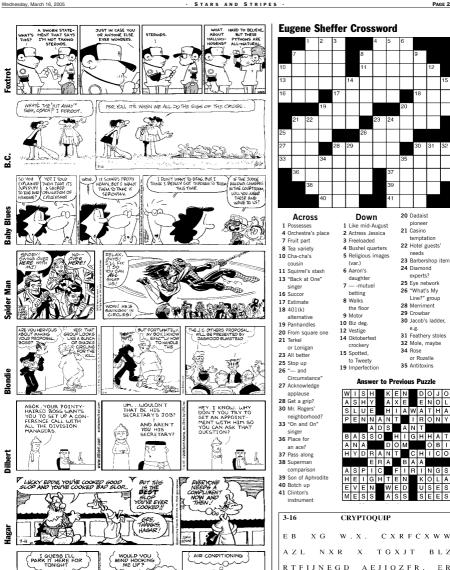








· STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 23



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CXRFCXWW BLZ

15

AEJIQZFR, E R X G XZIBOW OLODFZ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I IMAGINE THAT A CROSS BETWEEN A CANNON AND A BELL WOULD BE DUBBED "THE BOOMERANG." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals A

Soon-to-be in-law has big mouth JUB

Dear Abby: I am an operating room nurse. My soon-to-be mother-in-law recently had a procedure done that required anesthesis. When the anesthesiologist arrived to interview here before ask thim if he knew me. Hed exhaust here is the replied that he did.
Her next question was

plied that he did.

Her next question was whether he knew that I had recently had cosmet-tic surgery. Thankfully, he acted in a professional manner by simply saying, "Oh?" She continued the interrogation by asking him if he was aware that I had been previously engaged, and whether he thought I was a runaway bride or not.

a runaway ornee or not.

I was flabbergasted
that she had the gall to bring up
such personal things with someone with whom I have a professional relationship. This is a
small community where things
spread like wildfire. I want to
have a relationship with her, but
I feel as though she kicked me in
the stomach and stabbed me in

the back. Is there anything I can say to make her aware of my feelings, or must I be respectful and keep my thoughts to myself: I am deeply hurt.

— Appalled in Iowa

Dear Appalled: Your fiance's
mother may have been nervous
at the prospect of her

surgery, started babbling and couldn't stop. However, unless you want a strained relationship with your in-laws, do not "confront" her. She can't unring the bell. Now that you know she leaks judgment and leaks like a rusty bucket, in the future confide nothing to her unless you want the whole

Dear Abby: My son is 15.
When we're home and watching
TV in the evening, my son often
enjoys cuddling up next to me.
He'll put his head on my shoulder and wants my arm around
his shoulders. I, too, enjoy this

town to know

very much, and when he says, "Oh, Mommy, I love you so much," as he often does, my heart melts. I should mention that he is still shorter than me, though barely. He is not the typical 15-year-old who towers over his mother.

Until recently, I thought our closeness would help him develoop into a warm, loving man; but now, I'm wondering if this is healthy for him to be doing and for me to allow. I would hate to see him develop into a needy, clingy man or a mama's boy.—

Just a Loving Mom in Australia

Dear Loving Mom: Every parent should be so blessed as to have a son like yours. You have raised a loving only child who is bonded to his parents. If hhe doesn't start dating by the time he's 18, THEN there may be cause to worry. Otherwise, he sounds just fine to me.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069, Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at

to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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www.jumble.com
GARNAL

TENCED

to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: THE TYPY WAS "TYPY"

(Answers tomorrow) FUNGUS TANKER

WHY THE ROBBERS HEADED FOR THE

SEASHORE.

Now arrange the circled letters

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILT ORBIT FUNGUS TANI
Answer: When the king went out for the night, he

Affair leaves woman confused

Dear Annie: I am a married woman with one child. We don't lack for anything. My husband is an OK guy and a good father, but he's very self-centered.

Last May, one of my neighbors started to show an interest in me.

"Jack" also is married (his wife is a bit of a hypochondriac), and he has a small child. A few months ago, at a party we both attended, Jack had a few drinks and gave me a passionate hiss. I have never been kissed of waves through my entire body. After that, we would slip away and kiss here and there. Then it started to be more. Now we have

a secret affair going on.

I don't want to get caught, but
I also don't want to give him up.
It is like I finally found my

— Very Confused
Dear Confused: Don't confuse
passionate kisses with Jack being
your soul mate. This is lust, not
love. Are you willing to wreck two

Annie's Mailbox

marriages and destroy your child's sense of security for shock waves? Illicit affairs can be temporarily exciting, but the consequences are often per-

manently painful.
Tell your husband
you want to see a counselor. If he won't go, go
without him. Learn how
to put some of that
sexual energy into your
marriage, or make a

clean break

Dear Annie: I am responding to the letter from "Negative Dad." He said his son's blood type is O,

while his is AB and his wife's is A He assumed he was not his son's biological father.

Classification into the major blood groups is based on the presence or absence of two proteins, the A and B antigens, produced by the A and B alleles. The absence of either A or B antigens is called Type O.

The son gets one gene from each parent. If the parent has one

chromosome with an antigen and one without, he or she can pass either one on to the child. The writer, told he is "type AB," assumes he must pass on either the A or the B allele, but cannot have a son with neither. But other factors may block the expression of these alleles, so the blood of the

of these ancies, so the blood of the child with A or B or AB genotype may be reported as Type O. These other factors are not reported in ordinary ABO typing. There is also the possibility of laboratory error.

The reader should seek a consul-

tation with a geneticist and not proceed with a potentially destructive confrontation on the basis of
the major blood types

the major blood types.

— Gordon Harper, M.D.

Harvard Medical School

Harvard Medical School
Dear Dr. Harper: Thank you
for providing a valid reason for
Dad to believe his son belongs to
him biologically as well as in
every other way.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to mainesmailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox.net, or write

Family Circus



"You're right! I found the remote in the very last place I looked."

GRAFFITI LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE IS LIVE DRAWING WITHOUTAN

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ne Far Side





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Bad news for Cubs: Prior out indefinitely

Now the Chicago Cubs have

two injured aces Mark Prior will be out indefinitely because of inflammation in his right elbow, joining fellow fastballer Kerry Wood on the

sideline for a while. Wood, slated to start on Opening Day, is out with bursitis in

his right shoulder. Cubs trainer Mark O'Neal said Monday the 24-year-old Prior has some inflammation in the elbow joint and a little irrita-

tion to the ulnar nerve. Prior, an 18-game winner in 2003, missed the first two months of last season because of right Achilles' tendinitis and stiffness in his right elbow. Last July, he missed a start because of discomfort in the elbow. But Prior and O'Neal said the current injury is not related to last vear's problem

Prior made his Cactus League debut Thursday, throwing three innings against Seattle. He said Monday that while doing some routine postgame exercises, he felt discomfort in the elbow.

Cubs General Manager Jim Hendry said Prior saw elbow specialist Dr. Lewis Yocum last weekend and had a precaution-

weekend and nad a prosent ary MRI on Sunday.

"There is no damage to the nerve," Hendry said in Mesa, Ariz. "The ligament remains exactly the same from the MRI last year.

Prior was supposed to pitch Tuesday against Kansas City but will miss that start. O'Neal said that in addition to rest, Prior is taking anti-inflammatory medication and the Cubs would see how he responds before determining when he will begin throwing again.

Prior is scheduled to make his first start on April 5 at Arizona, the Cubs' second game of the

Wood played catch on flat ground Monday, testing his

Spring training

right shoulder. Pitching coach Larry Rothschild said the right-hander felt fine, and he could throw off a mound on

Wednesday. Rothschild said he expects Wood and Prior to be ready to make their first start of the regu-

Yankees closer Mariano Riv era also has a sore right elbow but his problem is not considered serious. He will be out at least a few days with mild bursi-

"It's not a major concern," manager Joe Torre said in Tampa, Fla. "He will probably pitch by the end of the week."

Rivera is not concerned, and expects to be ready for Opening Day.
"I threw yesterday and every-thing was fine," Rivera said. "Today, I got to the field and it

felt like my elbow was a little sore. It's a little swelling in the elbow. I'll be ready for the sea-At Bradenton Fla Ritchie told the Pittsburgh Pirates that he plans to retire, ending his comeback bid after miss-

ing nearly two seasons because of a right shoulder injury The Los Angeles Dodgers got much better news about Brad Penny in Vero Beach, Fla., where he had an impressive 65-pitch bullpen session.

Penny threw 14 breaking balls - the first he's thrown this spring as he continues to recovfrom a nerve injury in his

right biceps last season.

"I felt really good," he said.
"Even the changeups were good, which surprised me because it was the first time I'd thrown them.

If his next session goes well, it's possible Penny could pitch in an exhibition game within

Selig to testify on Capitol Hill

Lawvers for three subpoenaed players work to get them excused from Thursday's hearing

BY RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Major League Baseball gave a congressional committee about 400 pages of documents on drug testing and said commissioner Bud Selig was willing to testify at Thursday's hearing on steroid use.

Lawvers for Jason Giambi. Thomas and Palmeiro asked the committee to withdraw subpoenas for their cli ents, and lawyers for players and the commissioner's office continued to negotiate with committee staff Monday, trying to narrow the scope of questioning. Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, and Rob Manfred, the executive vice president in charge of labor relations, were in Washington to meet with the committee staff.

Just three days before the hear ing, it remained unclear whether Mark McGwire, Giambi, Curt Schilling and other current and former stars would testify before the House Government Reform

Former AL MVP Jose Canseco and Schilling are the only players who have said they are willing to appear in Washington on Thurs-

Selig, who initially offered a top aide as a substitute, reversed course Monday and offered to apnear.

"I am proud of the progress baseball has made on the subject of steroids and performance-enhancing drugs and look forward to sharing this information with the committee," he said in a statement. "The players stepped up this past January for an even stricter drug policy beginning this season demonstrating that all of us in baseball are committed to reaching zero tolerance."



Commissioner Bid Selig said in a statement. "I am proud of the progress baseball has made on the subject of steroids and performance-enhancing drugs and look forward to sharing this information with the committee."

Sammy Sosa, Thomas and Palmeiro were subpoenaed last week along with Canseco, whose recent book alleged several top players used steroids. Union head Donald Fehr also was summoned along with Manfred, baseball executive vice president Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers.

Canseco has asked for immunity in order to speak more freely. The committee consulted the

Justice Department but didn't expect to hear back until Tuesday evening, according to Canseco's lawyer, Robert Saunooke Saunooke said players were un-

sure whether the committee had power to grant immunity from both federal and state prosecution. "There's a part of me that would

like to believe that once immunity is granted by Congress, there's not a state prosecutor who would thumb their nose at this," he said.

In its subpoena last week, the committee asked for 11 types of documents, including current and past drug-testing agreements and policies going back to 1970. test results from 2003 and 2004. past management bargaining pro posals and studies, and details of disciplinary action since 1990 related to drug use. It also asked for results of tests since given to players subject to "cause" testing, a group that includes Darryl Strawberry and Dwight Gooden.

"We gave them roughly 400 pages of documents, substantial compliance with all of the issues they identified in their subpoena relating to our policies and our aggregate numbers," said Stan Brand, a lawyer for the commissioner's office.

Asked what was not turned over, Brand responded: "We presented them with the gross figures, how many people were tested and how many turned out posi-tive and for what. We did not give anything relating to individual tests and results."

Brand said that because of the short time period, baseball could not assure the committee that all relevant information had been submitted

'Under the circumstances. I think we're pretty confident we got all that they identified," Brand said

Committee staff spent Monday examining the documents.

"I don't think they have a sense of what's in there," Robert White, a spokesman for committee chairman Tom Davis said.

David McIntosh and Michael Kantor, lawyers for Giambi, Palmeiro and Thomas sent three letters to the committee. They asked that Giambi be excused until after the prosecution is over with because of his grand jury tes-

"Giambi became the focus of extremely negative publicity, not only throughout the nation but worldwide," they wrote. "He will have to live with this stigma for the rest of his life."

For Palmeiro, they said "to require that he come to answer baseless charges is unfair." And for Thomas, they said traveling to Washington "could have adverse circulatory effects that could substantially impede Mr. Thomas's recovery" from ankle surgery.

Davis, a Virginia Republican, has threatened to cite any subnoe naed witness who doesn't appear for contempt of Congress. He also has said one of the seven players summoned might be excused, most likely Giambi, who testified in 2003 before a federal grand jury investigating illegal steroid distribution.

A Yankees official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it was increasingly likely that Giam-bi will be excused. However, the subpoena cannot be formally withdrawn until the committee hears from the Justice Department.

Each witness is required to submit 100 copies of his opening statement to the committee by the close of business Tuesday, according to White. But he added that the deadline for statements often is not strictly enforced.

The union and player agents have discussed whether to offer to have a few of the players make statements to the committee but not answer questions, but the players' representatives were not all in favor of that strategy.

Brand said baseball also was

willing to have Alderson testify.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the hearings were a congressional matter but added: "Major League Baseball is responding to the message that they heard. They have taken an important step to confront the problem. They're expanding test-ing and increasing penalties."

Sen. Jim Bunning of Kentucky, a Hall of Fame pitcher invited to testify Thursday, said baseball's antitrust exemption might have to be re-examined if changes aren't made to the sport's drug-testing program, which was recently mod ified to include a 10-day penalty for first-time offenders.

AP Sports Writer Howard Fendrich in Washington contributed to this report.

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m.-Outdoors: Babe inkelman's Good Fishing (dld). winkeman's Good Harmy New AFN-Sports, noon-Pro basketball: Minneso-a tt Dallas (did). AFN-Sports, 530 p.m. Auto racing: Nextel Jup UAW-Daimler Chrysler 400 (did). AFN-Sports, 9 p.m.-Ennis: Pacific Life Inen. women's quarterfinals.

Thursday adio, 1:30 a.m.-Pro basketball: Seat-

APR-Radio, 130 am. Pro basketball: Seattle at Defroil, and Color to the Color to th

TBD. Radio, 6 p.m.-College basketball: men's tournament, 1st-round double-r, teams TBD.

All times are Central European Time; dld in-dicates delayed listing. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for

Baseball

Spring training glance AMERICAN LEAGUE

727 .714 .636 .600 .545 .545 Tampa Bay Baltimore Detroit Chicago New York .385 Kansas City Texas Seattle NATIONAL LEAG W L Pct 4 4 5 .667 .636 Atlanta New York Washington .583 .545 515151 Washington Arizona Philadelphia Chicago San Diego Los Angeles Cincinnati .500 .500 Pittsburgh Florida .41

NOTE: Split-squad games count in standings; games against non-maior la teams do not.

tahusings, games eams do not. Florida 4, Minnesota 3, 11 innings Atlanta 5, St. Louis 1 Baltimore 5, Boston 3 N.Y. Mets vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven,

Fla., ccd., rain L,A. Dodgers vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.,

The Continue of the Continue o

la. Minnesota vs. Florida (ss) at Jupiter, Fla.. St. Louis vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale,

Fla.
Cleveland (ss) vs. Washington (ss) at Viera, Fla.
Cleveland (ss) vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. nd (ss) vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St.

Cleveland (ss) vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla. Florida (ss) vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla. Oakland vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz. Colorado vs. Texas (ss) at Surprise, Ariz. Kansas City vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz. L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox at Tuc-son, Ariz.

son, Ariz."
Washington (ss) vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fia.
Texas (ss) vs. Milwaukee (ss) at Phoenix
Milwaukee (ss) vs. San Francisco at Scotts-dale, Ariz.

alle, Ariz. Wednesday's games N.Y. Mets vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla. Minnesota vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla. St. Louis vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. Houston vs. Cleveland at Winter Hav

la. Detroit vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla. Baltimore vs. L.A. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla.

Fla. N.Y. Yankees vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla. Philadelphia vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota.

San Francisco vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz. San Diego vs. Oakland at Phoenix L.A. Angels vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz. Chicago White Sox vs. Kansas City at Sur-orise. Ariz.

prise, Ariz.
Washington vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
Texas vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.
Thursday's games
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Cleveland vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
Atlanta vs. Pissburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
Houston vs. Ls. Dodgers at Viero Beach, Ila.
Houston vs. Ls. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Ila.

Fla. Tampa Bay vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater.

iorida vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. hicago Cubs vs. Oakland at Phoenix an Francisco vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz. olorado (ss) vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz. ansas City vs. La, Angels at Tempe, Ariz. lilwaukee vs. Arizona (ss) at Tucson,

riz. Arizona (ss) vs. Colorado (ss) at Tucson, Ariz. Cincinnati vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla. Detroit vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.

College basketball Men's Division II tournament

Sunday, March 13 Regional Semifinals Northeast At Waltham, Mass.

Bryant 76, Bloomfield 59 Bentley 90, Southern New Hampshire 84 East At Misenheimer, N.C. Mount Olive 72, Indiana, Pa. 64

Salem International 105, Pfeiffer
South Central
At Commerce, Texas At Commerce, Texas
Tarleton State 65, Pittsburg State 59
Texas A&M-Commerce 81, Central Oklaho
ma 73

Total Administration of the American Administration of the American Administration of the American American American Office of the Office of the American Office of the Office of the

South Dakota 73, Winona State 68 Metro State 85, Minnesota State-M South Atlantic At Bowie, Md. Virginia Union 85, South Carolina-Upstate

Vigrinia Union 85, South Carolina-4.

Bowie State 94, Columbus State 72, Regional Finals Monday, March 13

At Bellingham, Wash.
Cal Poly Pomona 65, Alaska-Fairhar Tuesday, March 15

At Waltham, Mass.
Bryant (22-8) vs. Bertley (30-5)
Mount Olive (28-4) vs. Salem Intern (24-6)

Mount Olive (28-4) vs. Salem Intern (24-6) hanks 58

South Central
At Commerce, Texas
Tarleton State (23-8) vs. Texas A&M-Com-

nerce (28-4)

South
At Montevallo, Ala.
Lynn (27-5) vs. Montevallo (26-6)
Great Lakes Great Lakes
At Findlay, Ohjo (29-3)
North Central
South Dakota (27-5) VS. Metro State (28-3)
South Atlant Scate (28-3)
South Atlant State (28-3)
South Atlant State (26-4)
Virginia Union (26-4) VS. Bowle State (26-4)

Men's Division III tournament Sectionals Friday, March 11 At Steven's Point, Wis. Frinity, Texas 73, Hanover 65, OT Vis. Stevens Pt. 81, Puget Sound 63 ord, Pp. 99, WPI 80 ord, Pp. 99, WPI 80 ord, Pp. 88, Pp. 99

Kings, J-ta. So, nearbard I, Mass. Potsdam of St, Shihh Fisher Jack Rochester 69. Amherst 62: At Albion Mich. Calvin 75, Mississippi College of Abbion 80, John Carroll 79: At Stevent 9 Point, Wis. Wis.-Stevens P. 61, Trinity, Texa York, Pa. 70, At Mahwah, N. J. York, Pa. 70, At Amherst, Mass. Rochester 67, Potsdam 51. At Albion, Mich. Calvin 60, Albion 52 Friday, March 18

At Salem, Va. Rochester (24-4) vs. Calvin (26-6) Wis.-Stevens Pt. (27-3) vs. York, Pa. (27-3)

Women's NCAA tournament PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL First Round

First Round
Saturday, March 19
At Reunion Arena
Dallas
North Carolina State (21-7) vs. Middle Ten-

ressee State (23-8)
Texas Tech (22-7) vs. Texas-Arlington (21-9) 21-9) Sunday, March 20
At Thompson-Boling Arena
Knoxville, Tenn.
New Mexico (26-4) vs. Purdue (16-12)
Tennessee (26-4) vs. Western Carolina
18-13)

TANK McNamara

At The Gampel Pavilion Storrs, Conn. Temple (27-3) vs. Louislana Tech (20-9) Rutgers (25-6) vs. Hartford (22-8). Rutgers (25-6) vs. Hartford (22-8). College Park, Md. Ohio State (28-4) vs. Holy Gross (20-10) Maryland (21-9) vs. Wisconsin-Green E

CHATTANOOGA REGIONAL

CHATTANOGG REGIONAL First Round Saturday, March 19 Reunion Arena Texas (21-8) vs. Oral Roberts (22-8) Georgia (22-9) vs. Rice (24-8) Sunday, March 20 Sunday, March 20 (Robville, Tenin. Oklahoma (17-12) vs. Arizona (19-11)

29-2) vs. Stetson (17-13)
At Comcast Center
College Park, Md.
Il (25-4) vs. Virginia Tech (17-11)
State (19-10) vs. Liberty (24-6)
At The Dean E. Smith Center
Chapel Hill, N.C.
(28-4) vs. Capicins (21-0) ke (28-4) v

Duke (28-4) vs. Carlistim (11-2)
Boston Callege (19-3) vs. Leouston (21-8)
KANSAS CITY REGIONAL
First Round
Saturday, March 19
At undergraphical
Minimapolita
(22-8) en Calledon (19-10) vs. Louisville
(22-8) en Calledon (19-10) vs. Louisville

igan State (28-3) vs. Alcorn State

(21-8) At Save Mart Center Fresno, Calif. Iowa State (23-6) vs. Undu (25-7) Stanford (29-2) vs. Santa Cland (25-7) Stanford (29-2) vs. Santa Cland (25-7) Stanford (25-7) vs. Bowling Green (23-7) vs. Bowling Green (23-7)

23-7)
Vanderbilt (22-7) vs. Montana (22-7)
Sunday, March 20
At The Gampel Pavilion
Connecticut (23-7) vs. Dartmouth (17-10)
Florida State (23-7) vs. Richmond (23-7)
TEMPE REGIONAL
First Round

First Round Saturday, March 19 At Williams Arena Minneapolis Minneapolis Minneapolis Minneapolis Minneapolis Minnesota (24-7) vs. Old Dominjon (22-8) Minnesota (24-7) vs. St. Francis, Pa. (21-9) At Save Mart Center Fresno, Calif.

Arizona State (22-9) vs. Eastern Kentucky (23-7)

Notre Dame (26-5) vs. UC Santa Barbara (21-8)

At Bank of America Arena
At Bank of America Arena
Baylor (27-3) seattle
At The Dean E Smith Center
Chapel Hill, No.
North Carolina (27-3) vs. Coppin State
Mississipni (9-1-10 vs. co.

Mississippi (19-10) vs. George Washington (22-8) Second Pound

Women's Div. II tournament Regional Finals Monday, March 14 South Atlantic At Raleigh, N.C. Shaw 67, Carson-Newman 53

South
At Conway, Ark.
Central Arkansas 76, Henderson State 61
East
At Anderson, S.C.
Charleston, W. Va. 88, Anderson, S.C. 71
South Central
At Springfield, Me.
Washburn 63, Emporia State 51

West At Seattle Seattle Pacific 85, Cal State-Chico 70 Great Lakes
At Allendale, Mich.
Grand Valley St. 62. Onings 45

North Central
At Grand Forks, N.D.
St. Cloud State 81, Concord
Minn. 70 a-St. Paul.

Northeast
At North Andover, Mass.
mack 52, Bentley 44
Quarterfinals
At Hot Springs, Ark.
Wednesday, March 23
ud State (23-9) vs. Marcho Wednesday, March 23 St. Cloud State (23-9) vs. Merrimack (28-5) Seattle Pacific (28-2) vs. Grand Valley State (28-5) Charleston, W. Va. (29-4) vs. Washburn

1-2) Shaw (32-1) vs. Central Arkansas (27-6) Women's NIT

WOMENTS Nu I First Round Wednesday, March 16 Tulsa (19-1) ut 1 reash A&M (14-14) Xayler (20-9) at Western Kentucky (20-9) Illinois (17-12) at Indiana State (22-8) BYU (19-1) at Indiana State (22-8) Brid (18-14) at South Florida (20-10) St, John's (19-10) at Delaware (25-2) St, John's (19-10) at Delaware (25-2)

SMU (19-10) at Southwest Missouri State (20-8) Nebraska (17-13) at Marquette (18-11) Friday, March 18 Eastern Michigan (23-7) at Kentucky (15-15)

Villanova (19-11) at Chattanooga (24-4) Charlotte (22-8) at Wake Forest (14-13) Maine (22-8) at Wake Forest (14-13)
Maine (20-9) at West Virginia (17-12)
UNLV (16-13) at Arkansas (16-13)
Creighton (19-9) at lowa (20-9)
Fresh Ostate (20-10) at Texas A&M-Corpus
Christi (22-6)

Tennis

Pacific Life Open

Monday
At The Indian Wells Tennis Garden
Indian Wells, Calif.
Purse: Men, \$2,724,600 (Masters); Women,
\$2.1 million (Tier I)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Third Round
Andy Roddick (3), United States, def. Jiri
loyak (26), Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2.
Tim Henman (6), Britain, def. Jurgen Melzer (32), Austria, 7-5, 6-4. arminant of the control of the contr

Guillerino Davis, 15th. Augustina, def. Para-Guillerino Davis, 15th. Augustina, def. Para-lindsay Davenport 13), United States, def. Lindsay Davenport 13), United States, def. Lindsay Davis, def. 15th. 25th. 25th.

College baseball

Monday's scores EAST orge Washington 9, Buffalo 4

George Washington 9, Buffalo 4 SOUTH Berry 2, West Florida 0 Bethel, Tenn. 5-ril a freed-Hardeman 4-6 Birmingham-Southern 12, Butler 2 Campbellsville 3, Union, Tenn. 1 Centenary 10, Wiley 0 Columbia 7, Fairleigh Dickinson 6 Lee 10-8, Bryan 0-2 Liberty 3, Marshall Liberty 5, Marshall 3 Illinois 51, 6 Bucknell 2 Indiana 8, Yale 0 Massachusetts 4, Miami (Ohio) 0 Missouri Baptist 2, Union, Tenn. 0 North Carolina 11, Princeton 4 North Dakota 11-4, N.J. Tech 2-2 N. Iowa 9, Rhode Island 4 Nova Southeastern 10, Molloy 6 Ripon 6, Montclair 21, 3

MIDWEST
Angelo St. 1, Minn.-Mankato 0, 11 innings
Cleveland St. 11-3, Xavier 2-10
Kansas St. 25, N. Dakota St. 1
Missouri 12, Youngstown St. 2
Southwest St., Minn. 11-11, Wayne, Mich

Southwest St., Milin. 11-11, Wayn 45
Tarleton St. 6-6, St. Francis, III. 5-5
SOUTHWEST
S. Nazarene 9, McMurry 4,
Brigham Young 2, CSU-Pueblo III/618 Teb. 15, Vanguard 9
San Francisco.
TOURNAMENTS
CVANSWIBE 7, N. Illinois 2
Evansville 7, N. Illinois 2
Rode 4 med classic
Gya 20, Rider 4 med classic
Gya 20, Rider 4 med classic
Gya 20, Rider 6, Long Island U. 3

Deals

Monday's transactions BASEBALL American Lea

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Optioned 1B
oung, RHP John Maine and C Eli Wh
o Ottawa of the IL and LHP Adam Loe
rederick of the Carolina League.

signed RHP Hayden Penn, RHP Brian Forys-tek and RHP Marino Salas to their minor eague camp.

BOSTON RED SOX—Optioned LHP Abe AlvaPrand INF Aleiandro Machado to Pawtuckrez and INF Alejantro Machado to Pawtock et of the IL, RHP Chris Smith to Portland or the Eastern League, and RHP Manny Delcar men, RHP Anibal Sanchez, RHP Luis Mendo za and LHP Luar Cedeno to Wilmington or za and LHP Juan Cedeno to Wilmington of the Carolina League. Reassigned INF Kenny Perez and OF Chin Ambres to their minor eague camp. CLEVELAND INDIANS—Optioned RHP Jere to Guthrie and RHP Fausto Carmono to Buf-

falo of the IL and RHP Jake Dittler to Akron of the EL. Reassigned C Javi Herrera, INF Jose Morban and INF Jake Gautreau to their morbal and NP. Jake Gautreau to their minor league Com Jake Gautreau to their minor league Com Jake Coptioned IB Justin Huber and C Paul Phillips to Omaha of the PCL and RHP Brian Bass, RHP Leo Nunez, RHP Devon Lowery and 28 Donnie Murphy to Wichita of the Texas League, Reassigned RHP Byron Embry, OF Adrian Brown, RHP Steve Steme and RHP Roberto Giron to their Steve Steme and RHP Roberto Giron to their

minor league camp.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Reassigned RHP
Von Stertzbach, RHP Bob Zimmerman, RHP
Delvin James, LHP Tim Bittner, C Ryan Budde
and C Bobby Wilson to their minor league MINNESOTA TWINS—Optioned RHP Travis

Bowyer, C Rob Bowen, 1B Garrett Jones and INF Liuß Rodriguez to Rochester of the IL, Op- of the EL and RHP Scott Tyler to Fort Myers of the FSL, Reassigned 2B Liuß Maza and INF Glenn Williams and OF Josh Rabe to their TORONTO BUILE LINY—Reassigned C Tim Whittaker to their minor league camp. Op- loned RHP Jason Armold and INF John Hattig to Syracuse of the IL and INF Raul Tablado RHP Ismael Ramirez, OF Miguel Negron and RHP Vince Perkins to New Hampshire of the

BRIP Vince Perkins to New Hampsafire of the Land League ARIZONA DIAMONDACKS—Collones RHP of The Transport Conzular, per Pio Dustin Nulport, Rulp and Land League Carp. Res. Proceedings of the Proceedings League, Reassigned RHP Scott Chiasson, RHP Mike Esposito, LHP Justin Hampson, OF Tony Miller and INF Tim Olson to minor

LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Reassigned LHP LOS Katchner I HP Derek Thompson, LHP Orlando Rodriguez, RHP Joel Hanrahan, INF James Loney, INF Delwyn Young, OF Tydus Meadows and OF Jon Weber to their minor

Meadows and Or John Weber to their mines league camp. PHILLIES—Optioned RHP Keith Bucktort, RHP Zack Segovia, 3B Juan Ri-chardson and OF Chris Roberson to their minor league camp. Reassigned INF-OF John Castelland, C Tim Gradoville and OF Jorge Pa-Castelland, C Tim Gradoville and of Forge Falls

and Bernard, C Tim Gradoville and of Forge Falls

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AND TIMES A

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association ATLANTA HAWKS—Placed C Michael Stew-art on the injured list. Activated G Tony Delk from the injured list.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Placed G Andre Emmett on the injured list. Activated G Dahntav mett on the injured list. Activates a paining. Jones from the injured list.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Placed C. Ervin Johnson on the injured list. Activated F Eddle Griffin from the injured list. Activated F American Basketball Association

ARA—Granted a team to Honolulu for the

AMERICAN BASKETBAIL ASSOCIATION
ABA—Granted a team to Honolulu for th
2005-06 season.
Women's National Basketbail Association
HOUSTON COMETS—Signed F Jocely
Penn.

ad. NEW YORK GIANTS—Released DT Norman

and.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Re-signed DE Bobby lamilton to a three-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Waived WR Bosley Allen. Named Duane Carlisle assistant strength and conditioning coach. COLLEGE

COLLEGE
WEST VIRGINIA CONFERENCE—Suspended
the WVU Tech athletic teams from regu-lar-season championships and postseason play for one year because of unspecified vionisty no reregion services and reshman entry and reshman entry asketball G Antonio Kellogg indefi-lent's basketball G Antonio Kellogg indefi-ment of the services of the ser owner's volleyball coach.

OKLAHOMA STATE—Announced the resignation of Julie Goodenough, women's basketball coach.

OREGON STATE—Fired Judy Spoelstra,
women's basketball coach. SAN DIEGO—Announced the resignation of athy Marpe, women's basketball coach. TENNESSEE—Fired Buzz Peterson, men's

asketball coach. TULSA—Named Doug Wojcik men's basketball coach.

UNION, N.Y.—Named Jim McLaughlin director of athletics.

VIRGINIA—Announced the resignation of Pete Gillen, men's basketball coach. Named Levern Belin defensive line coach.

THE PUBLIC LOVES THE LONG BALL THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HOLD OUR FEET TOO CLOSE TO THE FIRE TO MAKE STEROID TESTING STRINGENT. PLAYERS AREN'T THE ONLY THING ON THE BASEBALL FIELD THAT CAN BE JUICED. BASEBALL ŵ Billes

ef the YEAR, BUT THE MEDIA WILL, AND CONGRESS LISTENS TO MEDIA, WE HAVE TO MAKE CONTINGENCY PLANS





Spurs forward Tim Duncan grabs a rebound in front of Hornets forward P.J. Brown during the third quarter in San Antonio on Monday, Duncan had 18 points and 13 rebounds after missing the past two games.

Heat, Spurs keep the top up

Shaquille O'Neal looked at the big picture after the streaking Miami Heat moved into a virtual tie with Phoenix and San Antonio for the NBA's best record.

"I wouldn't say I'm im-pressed," O'Neal said. "I'd just say that the job is not done. It's not even almost done.

On Monday night, Dwyane Wade scored 29 points on 10-of-12 shooting in just 26 minutes, O'Neal added 21 points and the Heat led by as many as 40 in their 110-71 home victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

"Everyone's clicking at the right time," Wade said. "Our teamwork is great, and it's coming together at the right time right before the playoffs."

It was the third-largest victory margin in franchise history for Miami (49-16), which has won a league-best nine straight overall and 13 in a row at home

Phoenix and San Antonio are 48-15. San Antonio routed New Orleans 112-89 on Monday night. and Phoenix was idle after beat ing Denver on Sunday night.

The Heat, who can clinch a playoff spot with a victory in New York on Tuesday night, are 81/2 games in front of second-place Detroit in the Eastern Conference

Miami has won its past nine by

an average of 17.6 points. "I've never experienced any-thing like this before." said Eddie Jones, who added 10 points. "I just think it's great. If we can continue to do that, that's great. All we're going to do is continue to

Michael Redd had 14 points for the Bucks. Milwaukee, 2-8 in its past 10 road games shot 32.1 percent in its most lopsided loss of the season.

get better if we do that



"We didn't execute at all." Bucks forward Desmond Mason said. "We didn't step up and play basketball. You can rank tonight as one of our worst outings."

Spurs 112. Hornets 89: At San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 18 points and 13 rebounds in his return to the San Antonio lineup after missing two games because of a sprained right ankle and tightness in his back.

While Duncan returned, point guard Tony Parker missed his first game of the season because of a quadriceps injury, and Manu Ginobili sat out with a groin inju-

Beno Udrih, a 22-year-old rookie Slovenia, scored a career-high 25 points on 9-for-13 shooting in his first career start in place of

Brent Barry added 17 points in

place of Ginobili. "It's real important for those guys to do that," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said, "be-

cause that's the depth we talk about and haven't seen for about a month. Lee Nailon led New Orleans

with 18 points.

Pistons 114. Hawks 108. OT:

At Atlanta, Tayshaun Prince scored a career-high 31 points, and Detroit bounced back from the lowest-scoring game in franchise history. Rasheed Wallace added a sea-

son-best 28 points for the Pistons. who failed to make a field goal in the fourth quarter Sunday night in a 64-62 victory over Utah.

Atlanta's Tom Gugliotta hit a three-pointer with 6.4 seconds left to force overtime. Al Harrington had a season-high 37 points for the Hawks, 1-15 in

their past 16 games. Detroit played without coach Larry Brown, who had additional surgery Monday related to a November hip operation.

Wizards 95, Lakers 81: At Washington, Larry Hughes had 21 points and 12 rebounds to help Washington sweep a season series with the Lakers for the first time in franchise history

Gilbert Arenas added 21 points for the Wizards, overtime winners over the Lakers in their first meeting of the season in Los Ange-

Caron Butler had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, and Kobe Bryant added 18 points on 6-for-22 shooting.

Rockets 97, Warriors 94: Tracy McGrady had 20 points and seven rehounds and Houston wrapped up a four-game West Coast swing with its fifth straight victory.

Juwan Howard added 18 points and seven rebounds before leaving with a sprained right knee with 9:18 left in the fourth quar-

Zarko Cabarkapa had careei highs of 26 points and 10 rebounds for Golden State

Celtics 119. Bobcats 110: At Charlotte, N.C., Ricky Davis scored 27 points, and Antoine Walker had 25 to lead Boston to its fourth straight victory and eighth in nine games since Walker rejoined the team in a trade with Atlanta.

Grizzlies 104, Trail Blazers 83: At Memphis, Tenn., Mike Miller scored 27 points, and Lorenzen Wright had 19 points and nine rebounds for Memphis. Damon Stoudamire led Portland with 20 points.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

x-Miami	49	16	.754	-	
x-Detroit	39	23	.629	81/2	
x-Boston	35	29	.547	131/2	
Washington	34	27	.557	13	
Cleveland	33	27	.550	131/2	
Chicago	32	28	.533	141/2	
Indiana	31	31	.500	161/2	
Orlando	31	31	.500	161/2	
Philadelphia	30	33	476	18	
New Jersey	28	36	438	201/2	
Toronto	27	36	.429	21	
New York	26	35	426	21	
Milwaukee	25	37	.403	221/2	
Charlotte	12	49	.197	35	
Atlanta	11	52	.175	37	

Western Conference

**Phoenix						
x-Seattle 42 19 .689 5 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	x-Phoenix	48	15	.762	-	
Dallas 41 21 661 6% Sacramento 39 25 699 9% 600 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	x-San Antonio	48	15	.762	-	
Sacramento 39 25 609 9½ Houston 38 25 603 10 Memphis 36 27 571 12 Denver 32 30 516 15½ 12 15 12 15 16 15½ 15½ 16 15½ 16 15½ 16½ 1.2 15 16½ 1.2 15 16½ 1.2 15½ 16½ 1.2 1.2 16½ 1.2 1.2 16½ 1.2	x-Seattle	42	19	.689	5	
Houston 38 25 603 10 Memphis 36 27 571 152 Denvier 32 30 516 15½ LA. Lakers 32 30 516 15½ Minnesota 32 32 500 16½ LA. Cilippers 28 35 444 20 Portland 23 38 277 27 Golden State 20 4 313 2895	Dallas	41	21	.661	61/2	
Houston 38 25 6.03 10 Memphis 36 27 571 1512 Denvier 32 30 5.15 1515 LA. Lakers 32 30 5.15 1515 Minnesota 32 32 5.00 1615 LA. Clippers 28 35 4.44 20 Portland 21 38 4.44 20 Portland 21 38 2.77 271 Golden State 20 44 3.13 2815	Sacramento	39	25	.609	91/5	
Memphis 36 27 571 12 Denvler 32 30 5.16 15½ LA. Lakers 32 30 5.16 15½ Minnesota 32 32 50 16½ LA. Clippers 23 35 5.444 20 La. Clippers 23 35 5.44 20 Utal 30 20 23 32 27% Golden State 20 44 313 28% 48	Houston	38	25		10	
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Minnesota 32 32 .500 16½ L.A. Clippers 28 35 .444 20 Portland 23 38 .377 24 Utah 20 42 .323 27½ Golden State 20 44 .313 28½	I.A. Lakers	32	30	.516	151/5	
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Portland 23 38 .377 24 Utah 20 42 .323 27½ Golden State 20 44 .313 28½						
Golden State 20 42 .323 27/2 20 44 .313 28/2	Portland					
Golden State 20 44 .313 281/2						
			44		281/5	
	New Orleans	14	48	226	331/5	

Monday's ga Boston 119, Charlotte 110

buston 119, Charlotte 110 Washington 95, L.A. Lakers 81 Detroit 114, Atlanta 108, OT Miami 110, Milwaukee 71 Memphis 104, Portland 83 San Antonio 112, New Orleans Houston 97, Golden State 94

Utah at Cleveland
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia
Miami at New York
Seattle at Chicago
Minnesota at Philadelphia t Sacramento Wednesday's gam

Wednesday's Utah at Indiana Toronto at Boston Washington at Atlanta Chicago at New Jersey Seattle at Detroit Cleveland at Milwaukee Cleveland at Milwaukee Memphis at New Orleans Portland at Houston

Charlotte at Denver
Minnesota at San Antonio
Orlando at L.A. Clippers
Thursday's games
L.A. Lakers at Miami

Sacramento at Golden State

Monday Celtics 119, Bobcats 110

BOSTON — Pierce 2-9 11-12 15, Walker 1-21 0-12 Ls Payton 6-9 11-12 15, Payton 6-9 11-21 0-12 Ls Payton 6-9 11-21 0-12 Ls Payton 6-9 10-12 Cs Payton 6-9 10-12 Cs Payton 12-0-0 2, Read 0-0-0-0 0, Perkins 10-0 2, Totals 7-81 17-22 18, Gastor 7-14 2-16, Brezze 5-8 12-2 11, Knight 6-12 4-5 16, Payton 6-12 10-12 Ls Payton 6-12 10-12

18 E. J. A. Cholais de-August 2. Sept. 18 E. S. A. Cholais de-August 2. Sept. 18 E. S. Cholais de-August 2. Sept. 18 E. S. Cholais de-August 2. Sept. 2. Sep

Wizards 95, Lakers 81

VIZATUS 375, LAKETS 61

LA. LAKERS – Butler 9-18 1-2 20. Ostom

Later 1 20. Ostom

Later

LA. Lakers Washington Goals—LA. Lay 21 127—95 Washington Goals—LA. Lay 21 127—95 ant 4-12, Atkins 3-9, Octon 1-1, Butler 1-2, Octon 1-3, Butler 1-2, Washington 5-17, Glaber 2-4, Arenas, 204. Control 1-1, Butler 1-2, Washington 1-17, Glaber 2-4, Arenas, 204. Control 1-1, Control

Pistons 114, Hawks 108 (0T)

Three-Point Goals—Detroit 9-19 (Billups 5-10, R. Wallace 4-6, Prince 0-1, Hamilton 0-2), Atlanta 2-8 (Gugliotta 2-3, Childress 0-1, Har-rington 0-1, Lue 0-1, Delk 0-2), Fouled Out— Harrington. Rebounds—Detroit 51 (R. Walrington 0-1, Lue 0-1, Delk 0-2). Fouled Out--Harrington. Rebounds—Detrolt 51 (R.Wal-lace 12), Atlanta 42 (Childress 10). Assists— Detrolt 25 (Billups 7). Atlanta 23 (Lue 10). Total Fouls—Detrolt 15, Atlanta 24. Techni-cals—Billups, R.Wallace, Atlanta Defensive Three Second, Harrington. A—15,733

Heat 110, Bucks 71

MILWAUKEE - Mason 1-7 5-5 7, J.Smith 1-2 0-0 2, Gadzuric 3-4 0-0 6, M.Williams 4-8 2-2 10, Redd 5-13 3-4 14, Pachulia 0-7 3-4 3, Kubel 1-1 0-0 3, Goldwire 2-9 2-2 7, Strickland 2-11 0-0 5, Fizer 5-8 1-2 11, Booth 1-6 1-2 3, Gaines 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 25-78 17-21 71. MIAMI — E.Jones 4-9 2-2 10. Haslem 3-4 2-4

miaMI — EJones 4-92-210, Hasiem 3-42-4 8, O'Neal 9-16-3-8-21, D.Jones 6-80-0 15, Wade 10-12-8-92, Dooling 1-5-0-2, Anderson 2-4 0-4, Doleac 1-43-45, Laettner 0-03-43, But-1er 1-40-03, Mourning 3-5-24-8, S.Smith 1-3 9-2, Totals 41-7423-35 110. Milwaukee Miami 2001 (Goals—Milwaukee) Three-Point Goals—Milwaukee 4.17
(Kukoc 1.1, Redd 1.2, Strickland 1.5, Gold wire 1.5, M.Williams 0-1, Gaines 0-1), Miam 5-34 (D.Junes 3.5, Wade 1.1, Butler 1.2, Micro-Point 1.2

Grizzlies 104, Trail Blazers 83

PORTLAND — Khryapa 0-3 0-0 0,

Three-Point Goals—Portland 6-14 (Stoudamire 4-8, Frahm 2-4, Outlaw 0-1, Abdur-Rahim 0-1), Memphis 6-18 (Miller 3-6, Watson 2-3, Posey 1-4, Cardinal 0-5), Fould Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 40 (Przybilla 14), Memphis 40 (Wright 9), Assists—Portland 21 (Telfair 7), Memphis 22 (Watson 7). Total Fouls—Portland Defensive Three Second. A—16,165 (18,119).

Spurs 112, Hornets 89

NPIN 3.112, TROTHELS 67

NEW ORLEANS — Nalion 5:15 04 10, Vroman 8:12 1-117, PBrown 4:11 2:210, Dickau
12:11-13, Smith 2:50-44, Clastor 7:11:22 16,
Lampe 2:50 1-4, Totals 3:99-91:89 2.
Lampe 2:50 1-4, Totals 3:99-91:89 2.
SSM AMTONIO — Sower 5:85 6:16, Duncan
5:11-67:18, Nesterovic 2:50-64, Updrin 9:10-11
5:11-67:18, Nesterovic 2:50-64, Updrin 9:10-92, Totals
Brown 3:70-68, Mohaimmed 4:09-91
SWilks 2:50-64, Massenburg 1:0-02, Totals
New Orleans
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New Orleans
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Rockets 97, Warriors 94

NBA leaders

Through March 14
Scoring
G FG FT
L 57 573 50
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all. 59 520 47
Phoe. 63 599 44
ou. 60 553 32
. 58 554 32
sh. 59 479 39
59 478 30
61 494 45
Rebounds March 14 ring i FG FT 7 573 501 3 421 437 9 520 471 3 599 449 9 553 323 3 554 322 9 479 392 9 478 304 1 494 456 Nówitzki, Dan. Stoudemire, Pr McGrady, Hou. James, Clev. Arenas, Wash. Allen, Sea. Wade, Mia.

DEF TOT 692 884 445 652 497 684 513 687 374 572 504 633 419 627

Cleveland cuts DE Brown

Redskins reportedly pursuing first pick of 2000 draft

The Associated Press

Cleveland released defensive end Courtney Brown on Monday, vet another former first-round pick who failed to make it with

Washington Redskins coach Joe Gibbs wasted no time pursuing Brown. Within hours of his re lease, Gibbs flew to Cleveland with defensive line coach Greg Blache and had dinner with Brown and Brown's wife Monday night, an official within the league told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The official said Brown was evpected to visit Redskins Park later this week.

Brown, the first overall choice in the 2000 draft, was cut by Cleveland because he would not renegotiate his contract. He would have been due a \$2.5 million roster bonus Tuesday Browns General Manager Phil Savage said he still hoped the team could re-sign the oft-injured

But Brown quickly drew interest from other teams, including the Redskins. Washington is in need of a pass-rushing end, having relied heavily on linebackers and cornerbacks for many of their sacks last season.

Brown was also a teammate at Penn State with Redskins linebacker LaVar Arrington, the No 2 overall pick in 2000. If Washington acquires Brown, the team will have the top three picks from that draft: Brown, Arrington and tackle Chris Samuels.



Brown hasn't played a full season since his rookie year. He has missed 33 games with injuries over the past four seasons, including the final 14 games last year after tearing a ligament in his foot

Without Brown, the first three No. 1 picks that Cleveland took after it returned to the league in 1999 are gone. Brown joins quarterback Tim Couch, the first overall pick in 1999, and defensive tackle Gerard Warren, No. 3 overall in 2001, as ex-Browns. Couch was released last June and Warren was traded to Denver on

March 2 for a fourth-round pick. The team also has given running back William Green, its first-round pick in 2002, permission to seek a trade

In addition to letting Brown go Monday, Cleveland signed veteran defensive lineman Jason Fisk.

Cincinnati made a similar move, signing defensive tackle Bryan Robinson, who played for Chicago the past six seasons.

The Oakland Raiders re-signed free agent defensive end Bobby Hamilton to a \$6 million, three-year contract, keeping a key member of their revamped defense from last season.

The 33-year-old Hamilton, known as a talented run-stopper, was the most consistent player on the Raiders' rebuilt defensive front last season. He started 15 games last season and played in all 16 for the Raiders (5-11), recording 57 tackles - 36 solo - a sack and three pass deflections.

The Vikings welcomed former Bucs OB Brad Johnson for a workout, now that they are in the market for a backup to Daunte Culpepper after Gus Frerotte

agreed to sign with Miami Frerotte, who played behind Culpepper for the past two sea-sons, joined former Vikings offensive coordinator Scott Linehan with the Dolphins, according to Minnesota vice president for foot-ball operations Rob Brzezinski.

"Brad had a great visit," coach Mike Tice said in an e-mail. "He worked out very good ... has great anticipation on his throws. He would be a great fit for us

The New York Giants cut defensive lineman Norman Hand, Miami cut fullback Rob Konrad and Buffalo released Pierson Prioleau after the backup safety reiected the team's offer to restructure his contract.

In Detroit, new backup Jeff Garcia said he has accepted his role behind Joev Harrington, Garcia was another player the Browns cut.

"I'm not there to create any friction. I'm not there to create any controversy," Garcia said in a conference call, two days after agreeing to a one-year, \$2 million deal "I'm just there to add strength to the position.



Courtney Brown has missed 33 games with injuries over the past four seasons, including 14 last season with a foot injury.

On Tuesday, free agent tight end Anthony Becht signed a five-vear contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a move coach Jon Gruden is counting on to help the club's inconsistent running game.

Becht, who the Jets selected with the 27th pick in the 2000 draft, contributed to the success of running back Curtis Martin the NFL rushing champion last

season. In other news, the first NFL reg ular-season game outside the United States is expected to take place Oct. 2, when the Arizona Cardinals face San Francisco in Mexico City.

The game is expected to be a Sunday night contest televised by ESPN. It would be a home game for the Cardinals, who rarely sell out their stadium but could draw 100,000 or more in Mexico City.

'We're working on it but it's not finalized yet," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Tuesday.

Callahan's deposition might hurt Williams

Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.)

OAKLAND, Calif. - Former Oakland Raiders tight end Marcus Williams was a "work in progress" whose future as a professional football player hinged on whether he could bring more consistency to his blocking and pass-catching skills his former coach said in a videotaped deposition played in court Monday morning.

"There was an uncertainty as to whether he would mature into an NFL-caliber player," former Raiders coach Bill Callahan said in the deposition he gave in August as part of Williams' lawsuit against former teammate Bill Romanowski.

Williams is seeking more than \$3.8 million in the suit, which accuses Romanowski of battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligence in connection with an August 2003 practice field incident in which Romanows ki tore off Williams' helmet and punched him in the left eve.

Williams' lawyers say the punch broke their client's eye socket and caused serious emotional and cognitive problems, ending his professional football career.

But Romanowski's have tried throughout the trial in Alameda County Superior Court to minimize Williams' potential losses, asserting he was a marginal player whose future in the NFL was in doubt when he was injured

This view of Williams may be been bolstered by the statements from Callahan, who led the Raiders to the Super Bowl after the 2002 season but was fired after the team went 4-12 in 2003

Williams was a rookie in 2002 and was trying to make the Raiders roster when he was felled by the Romanowski blow during the 2003 preseason. At the time. Callahan said, Williams was a regular on special teams who only occasionally displayed the skills needed to develop into a regular in the Raiders offense.

"In Marcus' case, there were elements that flashed — but not on a consistent basis," said Callahan, who's now the coach at the University of Nebraska.

If Romanowski is found liable, the issue of damages will hinge

largely on whether the jury believes Williams had a future in the NFL.

An economist testified last week that Williams could have suffered as much as \$8.7 million in lost earnings, benefits and medical costs by having his career ended. But that figure assumes Williams would have developed into a regular player and had an NFL career spanning at least seven seasons, economist Robert Johnson testified.

Had Williams not progressed. Johnson added, that figure could have been as low as \$1.68 million.

Lawyers for Romanowski say they should complete their case Tuesday.

Georgia Tech's Gailey OK after heart attack

ATLANTA - It was a normal morning for

Chan Gailey. The Georgia Tech football coach was running around the racquetball court, get ting in a little exercise before going down to work. Suddenly, he felt a tighten-



ing in his chest. Then, a pain surged through his left arm.

He was having a heart attack.

Gailey was rushed to the hospital Monday, where doctors performed a balloon angioplas ty to clear an artery that was totally blocked. He was resting comfortably and expected to make a full recovery. "It was touch and go for a little while, it real-

ly was," athletic director Dave Braine said. "We were told it was serious, so everybody said a prayer and hoped he was going to be fine, and he is. His family — his wife and his two sons — are there with him, and he's doing well."

Gailey, who turned 53 in January, began feeling pain during his usual early morning racquetball game at the campus recreation center.

"He does it religiously every morning, so it isn't like he's not trying to take care of himself." Braine said. Braine said the angioplasty was needed to

clear an artery that was 100 percent blocked. He wasn't aware of the coach having any heart problems.

"He'll be in hospital probably three or four days, but they do expect a complete recov Braine said. "We expect him to be back here within a few weeks.

The Yellow Jackets were scheduled to practice Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, then take next week off for spring break, School officials were considering whether to cancel prac-

Kansas dismisses leading rusher Randle LAWRENCE, Kan. - Kansas' leading rush-

er John Randle was dismissed from the team Monday after being charged with hitting a man outside a bar.

Randle, a sophomore, was charged with misdemeanor battery for allegedly striking a man early Sunday morning in front of a downtown bar. Police said an officer saw the altercation and arrested the 20-year-old Randle, who led Kansas with 540 yards rushing last season.

Pac-10 to use instant replay

LOS ANGELES - The Pacific-10 will use instant replay in football next season, utilizing a system similar to one the Big Ten used last year. A replay official located in the press box will make the replay decision rather than the referee on the field. Coaches will not be allowed to challenge calls.

NASCAR suspends three crew chiefs

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - NASCAR on Tuesday suspended the crew chiefs for Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick in a swift crackdown on cheating committed at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Todd Berrier was suspended for four weeks

and fined \$25,000 for rigging Harvick's fuel tank to appear full when it actually wasn't during qualifying.

Chad Knaus was suspended for two weeks and fined \$35,000 when Johnson's race-winning car failed to meet the minimum height reement in Sunday's post-race inspection.

Alan Gustafson was suspended two weeks and fined \$25,000 because Busch's runner-up

In addition to the suspensions, the drivers were also docked 25 points. Rick Hendrick, the car owner for Johnson and Busch, was docked 50 points — 25 for each infraction. Richard Childress, the car owner for Harvick,

was docked 25 points. The penalty cost Johnson the series points lead, which he earned following his victory Sunday in Las Vegas.

Davenport wins: Roddick, Agassi advance INDIAN WELLS, Calif. - Overcoming

gusty winds that sent sand swirling and left a layer of grit on the court Monday, Lindsay Davenport beat Meghann Shaughnessy 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 in the Pacific Life Open. When the wind died down a bit later in the

afternoon, it was Andy Roddick who breezed He needed only 45 minutes for a 6-1, 6-2 victory over Jiri Novak.

Andre Agassi also rolled into the fourth round, beating Andrei Pavel 6-3, 6-4. Maria Sharapova was a 6-2, 6-3 winner over

Dinara Safina in a match of Russian teenagers. Sorlie maintains lead in Iditarod

UNALAKLEET, Alaska - Norwegian Robert Sorlie kept his lead Tuesday in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race as he entered the final stretch of the 1 100-mile race Sorlie, the 2003 champion, was the first

musher to leave the Elim checkpoint, 123 miles from the finish. He is trying to win his second Iditarod in three tries.

Sorlie left Elim at 4:17 a.m. AST after resting his team for three hours. John Baker was about three hours behind Sorlie, followed by three-time winner Jeff King, defending champion Mitch Seavey and four-time winner Martin Buser.

Trendy picks to help stop bracket busters

By TODD HARMONSON The Orange County Register

Picking last season's national champion by mascot cool quotient clearly didn't work. Uniform color didn't do much good

the year before, either. And don't even get started on the fight song fiasco. Sound a little too familiar? Probably does for anyone who has gotten in too deep when it comes time for the annual NCAA tournament pool (for entertainment pur-

poses only, of course). Can't swim with the pool sharks? Well, face it. They either spend so much time



watching hoops that they name their kids Tubby, K, Dickie V and Digger or they know some simple basics about recent tournament trends

For instance, everyone knows that 42 of the past 66 national champions came from the Atlantic Coast the Big Ten, the Pac-10 or the Southeastern conferences. And it's obvious that teams with strong road and neutral-court records are better than the homebodies.

But it takes a little research to realize that since 1979 only six seeds — Nos.1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 — have produced national cham pions.

The following are trends you might want to follow when you fill out your bracket for the office pool. They might be your only chance against the guy who legally changed his name to RPI.

Avoid 16 seeds the way Bob Knight avoids group hugs with reporters

The skinny: No 16th-seeded team ever has beaten a No. 1 seed. In fact, the only time they win in the tournament is in the Tuesday play-in game . . . against another

Teams seeded 14th or 15th

are nearly as upsetting as their No. 16 counterparts

The skinny: Teams seeded 14th, 15th and 16th have won only one tournament game in the past five seasons. They are a combined 1-59 in that span in first-round

games, so, hey, there is a precedent. Make heads or tails of those pesky 8-9 games

The skinny: It's not exactly a coin flip, but it's close. If in doubt, lean toward the nines. They have a 43-37 advantage over the eights in the past 20 NCAA Tournaments. That's not exactly a trend on which you should risk the kids' college fund we'll get to that later — but it's better than

Best pick: No. 9 Nevada looks good over Texas, as does No. 9 Mississippi State over Stanford.

Look for that perfect 10

The skinny: No, we're not talking Ashley Judd in the stands of the Kentucky-Eastern Kentucky opener. Take a look at recent brackets and realize that a 10th-seeded team has reached the Sweet 16 in eight of the past eight seasons. But, remember, it gets tricky because of the pod system that puts high seeds as close to home as possible, so a No. 2 seed isn't likely to lose in the second round in its backvard.

Best pick: North Carolina State draws slumping Charlotte in the first round and inconsistent Connecticut in the second

The skinny: No. 12 seeds almost always are tournament winners from some conference no one sees until championship week on ESPN, and they tend to be the un-knowns in the field. Think fans overlook them? Apparently, so do the No. 5 seeds in the first round and the No. 4 seeds in the



N.C State's Julius Hodge (24) gives the Wolfpack a chance to be a perfect 10.

second. A No. 12 seed has reached the Sweet 16 in four of the past six years. Best pick: Sneak a peak at Old Domin

ion, which takes on Michigan State in the first round and, potentially, Syracuse in the

Make the math equal nine

The skinny: With the intense focus on the seeding process, the tournament selection committee has been getting it right lately. The total of the combined seeds at the Final Four has exceeded nine only twice in the past 10 years, and only one time in that span did a team seeded lower than No.5 reach the Final Four. It happened in 2000, when No. 8 seeds North Carolina and Wisconsin both made it. So go ahead and nick a No. 5 seed, but the rest

Best pick: The hottest-looking No. 5 clearly is 2004 title-game participant Geor

gia Tech, as long as point guard Jarrett Jack's ankle heals.

There's a reason they're No. 1 or No. 2

should be seeded first or second.

The skinny: Everybody wants to find his dream pick, the one that can take him to the title. But after about five days, there's a major change of heart and he wants out of the deal. Oh, wait, that was Rick Majerus with USC. But you get the point. Don't take the longshots to win it all because they rarely do. In fact, 13 of the past 15 national champions were seeded first or second

Best pick: The vision of Roy Williams cutting down the nets works here. Try North Carolina.

Sizing up the NCAA regions

Chicago Regional

THE GAMES Thursday in Indianapolis S. No. 16 Fairleigh Dickins

No. 1 Illinois vs. No. 16 Fainleigh Dicklinson No. 3 Texas vs. No. 9 Newada No. 2 Cakabame Satte vs. No. 15 Se Louislana No. 7 Southern Illinois vs. No. 15 Saint Many's No. 15 Saint Many's No. 15 Saint Many's No. 15 Saint Many's No. 15 Saint Many Saint

No. 5 Albahama vs. No. 1 ar Viscour.

Nost oversteeden: THE BUZZ.

Most underseededen knoen, really. But Arizona could complain if it wanted: Intad the resume to be a No. 2, expecially when it's compared to the other No. 2s. expecially when it's compared to the other No. 2s. Both of the complaint of the work of the complaint of the work of the complaint of the

gone, Wisconst-Milwaukee G & McCarle, Usin State!

Specier Melosa. Mally First. No. Sheding, No. Einst an upset, as don't worry about Tosa-Newdin. But there are upset, as don't worry about Tosa-Newdin. But there are upset, as don't worry about Tosa-Newdin. But there are upset, as don't worry about Tosa-Newdin. But the Tosa

"MUSE has some wripped and bear and other bulky big men in Brandon Bass' and other bulky big men in Brandon Bass' and other basis, all 310 pounds of him.

Best potential 2nd-round game: Arizona-LSU or Arizona-IAB would be mightly fine. There are questions about national arizona's frontcourt, and LSU's big men would cause while-time problems. The Arizona-IAB matchup would be highly and the problems.

in the 80s, at least. THE PICKS

1st-round winners: Illinois, Arizona, LSU and Nevada in Solse; Oklahoma State and Saint, Mary's in Oklahoma City; Boston College and Alabama in Cleveland.
2nd-round winners: Illinois, Oklahoma State, Alabama

2nd-round winners. Illinois, and Oklahoma State.

Sweet 16 winners: Illinois and Oklahoma State.

Advancing to the Final Four: Illinois.

- Mike Huguenin The Orlando Sentinel

Austin Regional

THE CAMES Friday in Charlotte

No. 1 Duke vs. No. 16 Delaware State No. 8 Stanford vs. No. 9 Mississippi State Thursday in Indianapolis

No. 2 Kentucky vs. No. 15 Fastern Kentucky

Thursday in Tucson, Ariz. No. 3 Oklahoma vs. No. 14 Niagara No. 6 Utah vs. No. 11 UTEP

Friday in Worcester, Mass. No. 4 Syracuse vs. No. 13 Vermont

No. 5 Michigan State vs. No. 12 Old Dominion.

Most overseeded: lowe. The Hawkeyes, who finished wo games under .500 in the less-than-stellar Big Ten, nay be a spot too high.

Most underseeded: None.

5 best players: Utah C Andrew Bogut, Vermont F Tayl Coppenrath, Duke G J.J. Redick, Mississippi State Lawrence Roberts, Syracuse F Hakim Warrick. 5 most underrated players: Oklahoma F Taj Gray, ford F Matt Haryasz, Kentucky F Chuck Hayes, Old D ion F Alex Loughton, UTEP G Filberto Rivera.

Best upset possibility: UTEP over Utah and Old Dominion over Michigan State are the ones we're looking a Best upset possoning of the cones we're looking at the closest. Utah essentially is a one-man team—though that one man, C Andrew Bogut, may be the nation's best player. UTEP will enjoy a quickness advantage, but that won't matter if Bogut dominates. Michigan State starts four upperclassmen and played well down the stretch.

t out and is solid defensively.

Best 1st-round game: Cincinnati-lowa isn't necessarily sexy matchup, but it will be close. The games we alked about in the upset possibilities should be close—but also entertaining.

Best potential Ind-round game: Syracuse-Michigan State would be the best—assuming Michigan State gets there. Kentucky-Cincinnati has some intrigue, too, if Cincy gets there.

THE PICKS

1st-round winners: Duke and Mississippi State in Ch lotte; Kentucky and Cincinnati in Indianapolis; Okla ma and UTEP in Tucson; Syracuse and Old Dominior Worcester.

Sweet 16 winners: Oklahoma and Syracuse. Advancing to the Final Four: Syracuse

- Mike Huguenin The Orlando Sentinel

Syracuse Regional

THE GAMES Friday in Charlo lina vs. play-in w . ier (Δlahama Δ&M

No. I North Carolina vs., play-in winner (a. No. 8 Minnesota vs. No. 9 lows State.

Friday in Worcester, Mass. No. 2 Connecticut vs. No. 15 Union State.

No. 2 Connecticut vs. No. 15 Union State.

No. 2 Kansas vs. No. 18 Buckner lowa No. 18 Wisconsin vs. No. 18 Worther lowa No. 4 Wisconsin vs. No. 11 Northern lowa No. 4 Florida vs. No. 11 Northern lowa No. 5 Ulianova vs. No. 12 New Mexico.

No. 5 Villanova vs. No. 12 New Mexico.

THE BUZZ

bost overseeded: Northern lowa. To some folks, UNI
ildn't be in the field. The Panthers have lost 10
es. finished tied for third in the Missouri Valley and showers, p. m. the level, the partners have get an local time quarterias of the conference tourney. An official time quarterias of the conference tourney. An Conference of the conference of the conference of the NCAA's basis shown referees. That begs this question to in the world can a obviount in affect energy the states. The conference of the conference of the teams? Cay you say, "Open't that perfainly have the partners of the conference of the conference of the No. 3? They are rained at in the RPI and saffered losses No. 3? They are rained at in the RPI and saffered losses with inpuries. They should be a No. 2. They are rained at in the Saffered losses. The No. 3? They are rained at in the RPI and saffered losses with inpuries. They should be a No. 2. They Saffered losses of the Saffered losses of the Saffered losses of the Saffered losses of Saffered losses. The Saffered losses of Saffere

Gifer. Northern lowa Gifer JaiCobon, lowa State Courts Best supex possibility. On, we've already, asid Northern lowa Shoulet's be in the field. But if UNI is hatting its profess of the profess of the profess of the profess of the profess stroke, and the Parithers may a low of screens to seen a stroke and the Parithers was too for screens to seen a stroke of the parithers was too for screens to seen a stroke of the parithers was a low of screens seen a stroke of the profess of the stroke of seen a stroke of the profess of screen and the stroke of screen and the screen and screen screen and sc

THE PICKS

1st-round winners: North Carolina and Iowa State in charlotte; Uconn and Charlotte in Worcester; Kansas and Wisconsin in Oklahoma City; Florida and Villanova. Nashville, 2ndr-ound winners: North Carolina, UConn, Kansas

lorida. set 16 winners: North Carolina and UConn. ancing to the Final Four: Connecticut. — Mike Huguenin The Orlando Sentinel

Albuquerque Regional

THE GAMES Thursday in Boise, Idaho

No. 1 Washington vs. No. 16 Montana No. 8 Pacific vs. No. 9 Pittsburgh Thursday in Cleveland

No. 2 Wake Forest vs. No. 15 Chattanoog No. 7 West Virginia vs. No. 16 Creighton Thursday in Tucson, Arz. No. 3 Gonzaga vs. No. 14 Winthrow, No. 6 Texas Tech vs. No. 11 UCLA Friday in Nashville

No. 4 Louisville vs. No. 13 La.-Lafayette No. 5 Georgia Tech vs. No. 12 George Washington THE BUZZ

No. 3 Georgia Tech vs. No. 12 Segrege Weathington.

Metal overseption for Good Tech Tech. Ver. Verlicolo Jacky. New Joseph Verlicolo Jacky. The Committee of th

olished.

5 best players: Louisville F/G Francisco Garcia, GonzaJa F Adam Morrison, Wake Forest G Chris Paul, Washingon G Nate Robinson, Texas Tech G Ronald Ross.
5 most underrated players: Creighton G Nate Funk,
exas Tech G Jarrius Jackson, Pacific F Christian Marakr, Louisville G Larry O Bannon, George Washington G

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nd Pittsburgh.

Sweet 16 winners: Wake Forest and Louisville.

Advancing to the Final Four: Wake Forest.

— Mike Huguenin The Orlando Sentinel

Smith, Ford not laughing at NCAA's joke

Coaches are less than thrilled as **UK and Eastern** prepare to play

BY MURRAY EVANS The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Ky. — Travis Ford wore a brave face one day after learning his Eastern Kentucky Colonels would face second-seeded Kentucky in the opening round of the NCAA tourna-

A week ago, the former Ken tucky point guard said several times he'd rather Eastern Kentucky not have to face his alma mater in its first tournament anpearance since 1979.

But the selection committee matched up the 15th-seeded Colonels (22-8) against their rival from 30 miles away at the Austin

"I don't think it's either good or bad." Ford said. "We knew we were going to have to play somebody very, very good. We're going to be an underdog. We're going to have to play extremely well. It's going to be an incredible challenge for us."

A pairing of the rival seemed a bit unlikely last week, when Kentucky (25-5) was in the running for a No. 1 seed. But the Wildcats 70-53 loss to Florida in the South. eastern Conference tournament final on Sunday dropped them to a No. 2 seed

Ford thought a Kentucky-Eastern Kentucky matchup would be "too obvious" for the tournament

committee to consider. Kentucky coach Tubby Smith shared that sentiment

'We would prefer that we be able to cheer for them." Smith said. "We're sure our fans would love to cheer for Eastern Kentucky, as well. But I guess the selection committee saw this as a good opportunity to match us up.

44I think they had to look at it and think, 'Let's do this.' I don't know any other reason they'd put two teams 30 miles apart from each other together. I think the NCAA got a little bit of a chuckle out of it at the end.

> **Travis Ford** Eastern Kentucky coach





Kentucky coach Tubby Smith, left, isn't thrilled with his team's first-round assignment in the NCAA tourna ment. It's against Eastern Kentucky, a team from a school only 30 miles away that is coached by Travis Ford, a former star guard at Kentucky. Ford likewise dislikes the idea of facing a friend and former colleague.

The decision by the committee to pair the Colonels and Wildcats isn't a particularly popular one in central Kentucky, where the schools share a number of fans, although Kentucky loyalists are far

more prevalent. Eastern Kentucky forward Michael Haney even acknowledges growing up as a Kentucky sup-

"I was born in Missouri, but I moved to Kentucky in the fourth grade," Haney, a senior, said. "I followed them. I was a pretty big IIK fan '

Conversely, many Kentucky fans have begun following the Colonels in the five seasons that Ford has been coach. Ford played one season at Missouri before transferring to Kentucky, where

he played until 1994 under coach Rick Pitino and helped the Wildcats reach the Final Four in 1993. Ford ranks second in career free-throw shooting (88.2 percent) and ninth in career assists at Kentucky. He holds the sin-

gle-game record for assists with - set against Eastern Ken-Kentucky-Eastern Kentucky is one of only two first-round matchsame state Charlotte and North Carolina State were paired in the Syracuse Regional.

"I think there was a reason they did it," Ford said of the committee's rationale. "I think they had to look at it and think, 'Let's do this.' I don't know any other reason they'd put two teams 30 miles apart from each other to-

"I think the NCAA got a little bit of a chuckle out of it at the end.

Smith, who worked with Ford as an assistant to Pitino at Kentucky, is one of Ford's biggest fans. Smith and Ford have remained close - the Eastern Kentucky coach and his staff even sat in on a Kentucky practice earlier

"We're excited for Eastern, that they're in," Smith said.

"They're very deserving. We watched (Ford) build that program the right way."

In his eight seasons at Kentucky, Smith has scheduled in-state schools when possible. The Wildcats have played Eastern Kentucky three times during his tenure, most recently last season, a 101-72 win by the Wildcats in Lexington.

"It's not like we don't play (each other)," Smith said. "You hate to play (in the postseason) against friends and peers that you have so much respect for. That's always tough, because somebody has to win and somebody has to

Eastern Kentucky is 0-5 in NCAA tournament play, while Kentucky has won seven national titles and reached the Final Four

Only four 15th-seeded teams have ever won a tournament game. But Haney said the Colonels won't be intimidated

"Once the ball is thrown up. anything can happen," Haney said. "It's happened four times for a reason - because it's possi-

MAC wondering what it takes to be invited to dance

BY MICHAEL MAROT The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - Charlie Coles thought Miami of Ohio's résumé was strong enough for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament: an 18-11 record, the Mid-American Conference regular-season title, No. 29 in the RPI and a schedule strength of 49.

It didn't impress the 10-member selection committee, and Coles is worried about the message being sent to the MAC, which got just one team into the 65-team field despite five teams ranked in the top 55 of the "What it says is that the committee has

never, ever respected our league," Coles said Monday, one day after the brackets were announced.

As usual, the six power conferences -Atlantic Coast, Big East, Big Ten, Big 12 Pac-10 and Southeastern - dominated the field, accounting for 31 of the 65 teams, including 25 of 34 at-large bids. Add soon-to-be Big East members Louis

ville and Cincinnati, from Conference USA, and the numbers increase to 33 and

That left only eight spots open for teams in conferences like the MAC and Atlantic 10. Three of those were swallowed up by unset winners in the conference tournaments — something committee chairman Bob Bowlsby suggested Monday played a

key part in some teams being left out.
"The committee thought there were better teams, but I would also suggest that ome of the upsets may have affected the MAC teams, including Miami and Buffa-

lo," Bowlsby said.

The annual debate about life in a mid-major league didn't end with that explanation

A year ago, Saint Joseph's earned a top seed. This year, the Hawks (19-11) were doomed by a RPI of 60 and a 3-8 record agaginst nonconference opponents.

Wichita State (20-9) of the Missouri Valley Conference was left out despite an RPI Three other teams were taken from the MVC — Southern Illinois, Creighton and Northern Iowa.

Northeastern (24-9) of America East didn't even appear on the NCAA's list of other teams considered despite an RPI of

tucky in 1993.

Bowlsby has talked frequently over the past two years about evaluating each school's complete resume, including conference RPI ratings.

According to the NCAA's own numbers, the MAC was the 10th strongest league this year. Conference USA, which ranked ninth, got four bids. The Mountain West and Western Athletic, which ranked 11th and 12th, each had two teams make it.

"You may eliminate somebody by their nonconference schedule or their road record. Those are things that are difficult to separate," Bowlsby said. "You can play yourself out of a bad seed, but you can't play yourself into the tournament. That's

the harsh reality."
It's also what Miami, Buffalo, Kent State and Akron are dealing with now. Buffalo (22-9) was No. 32 in the RPI, Kent State No. 52 and Akron No. 55.

It wasn't just the MAC that was disap-

"My only hope was that the A-10 has historically done well in the tournament. Saint Joseph's coach Phil Martelli said. "I hoped it would have two representatives. When you're on the razor, you have to give a reason to put you in and a reason to keep you out."

Coles, in his second stint as a MAC coach, understands the predicament for schools like Miami.

If you don't win a large number of games or earn the league's automatic bid, you must bring something else — like a poten-tial first-round draft pick. Coles had that in Dan Majerle at Central Michigan and in Wally Szczerbiak at Miami. Szczerbiak's last season at Miami, 1999, was also the last time the MAC had an at-large team make the NCAA field.

"I think it takes a little star power, and a little location power," Coles said. "People want to talk about Northern Iowa getting in, but what about the big boys? Some ams play 10 or 11 home games and go 7-9 or 8-8 in the conference. Did they over-achieve? I don't think so."

Coaching moves from 2003 felt atop brackets

Jayhawks, Illini, Heels set on paths by hirings

BY TODD HARMONSON The Orange County Register

Nothing is all that earth-shattering about a college basketball

coach being shoved out the door.

It happens all the time, and the aftershocks rarely are felt beyond the borders of a program that pushed away an old problem only to find a new one.

But when it happened two years ago at the epicenter of the game, Tobacco Road, it started a ripple effect that severely shook three of the top teams in the nation and produced tremors that still might be felt in the Final Four in St. Louis.

Few major teams were worse at the end of the 2003 season than North Carolina, but nearly two years after the ouster of coach Matt Doherty, the Tar Heels were selected Sunday as a No. 1 seed for the NCAA tournament.

"To think of that point and where were are right now, I never had those thoughts," said Roy Williams, the former North Carolina assistant the Tar Heels lured home from Kansas as Doherty's replacement. "I just couldn't do that"

And it's nearly as difficult to imagine that Illinois and Kansas could be right at the top with North Carolina after they took the direct hits created by Williams' move to Chapel Hill, N.C.

The Jayhawks replaced the coach who had taken them to the



P nhotos

The careers of Kansas coach Bill Self (left), Illinois coach Bruce Weber (center) and North Carolina coach Roy Williams (right) intertwined two years ago as North Carolina sought to replace its coach. When Williams left Kansas to take over the Tar Heels, Kansas hired former Illini coach Self, and Weber took over at Illinois.

2003 Final Four in New Orleans with the Illini's Bill Self, and Illinois filled Self's spot with Southern Illinois' Bruce Weber.

All Williams, Self and Weber have done this season is go a combined 82-11, claim two of the four No. 1 seeds in the tournament that begins this week and establish their teams among the favorites to cut down the nets April 4.

That's not bad at Illinois and Kansas, where things were going rather well under Self and Williams, respectively. But it's an epic turnaround at North Carolina, where Doherty resigned under pressure after an abysmal 8-20 season.

"It's hard to imagine because they took more junk than any team that's ever played at North Carolina," Williams said on a conference call.

"I don't know if North Carolina

has ever gone 8-20, so those kids have hung around and done some really good things." No team has done more good

things this season than top-ranked Illinois, where Weber has shown that his success at Southern Illinois had far more to do with coaching than the caliber of the competition.

Illinois was something of a fan favorite much of the season as it pursued perfection, but even with one loss, the Illini win supporters because of their high-paced, guard-oriented style. And Weber became a sentimental pick last week when he left a Big Ten Tournament game and learned that his mother suddenly had died.

Weber's players, however, have adopted as much of an underdog mentality as possible for the No. 1 team in the nation because they have heard their doubters throughout the season.

"They don't think Illinois is the best team in the country," Illini point guard Dee Brown told the Chicago Sun-Times. "Just watch TV. They'll tell you we're playing in a weak conference.

"Do I believe them? You see us play every day. We play team basketball. We know how good we are. People have got to fear us." Before the season, no team was

feared more than Kansas. Sure, Self had a lot to do with it, but he also was coaching a group of seniors who had been to the Final Four under Williams and barely

lost to Syracuse in the nation title game.

"With expectations, it forces your team to play in a situation where there is a bigger bull's-eye on your back, which naturally should help you play games late in the season because they are pressure-packed games," Self said in a conference call.

"I think if you slide under the radar screen, sometimes you get a false sense of what you are."

The Jayhawks this season have gone from strong favorites to win the national championship to a team that had to fight through a slump, but they still are seeded third in the Syracuse Region.

Kansas has the potential to face North Carolina and Williams in the regional final if both teams advance that far, leading to a battle between the schools which were affected most by his move. "It still lingers." Williams said.

"It still lingers," Williams said.
"I started recruiting (Kansas forward) Wayne Simien when he was in the seventh grade. You can't just forget a guy after something like that.

"So that part is still there. I'll always be a Kansas fan. But I won't ever be as big of a Kansas fan as I am now with all those kids on that team that I recruited."

Other recent coaching moves had major impacts on this season's tournament field. Washington as a No. 1 seed? Not without third-year coach Lorenzo Romar. And Ben Howland needed only two seasons to get UCLA into the NCAA tournament, though that might prove a difficult task for new USC coach Tim Floyd.

Still, those moves will go down as relatively minor shakeups on the college basketball landscape compared to the one that started April 1, 2003, and ended one month later.

Actually, there's a strong possi-

bility it will be felt again when the sport's new champion is crowned on April 4.

Play-in teams survived tough seasons to get their shot

BY RUSTY MILLER

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — As an NCAA moderator introduced Oakland coach Greg Kampe of Monday night, he mentioned

the Grizzlies' 12-18 record.

"You really had to bring that up, didn't you?" Kampe scolded in mock disgust.
"Couldn't you have said 18-12?"

The Grizzlies and Alabama A&M (18-13) will meet Tuesday night in the play-in game at the University of Dayton after weathering seasons filled with adversity.

Oakland opened its eighth season in Division I 0-7, losing by an average of 13 points a game. The opponents: Illinois, Marquette, Xavier, Missouri, Texas A&M, Kansas State and Saint Louis.

"We understand our record is not what some people think it should be. We make no apologies," Kampe said. "Our schedule was ranked No. 1 by the Sagarin ratings at the end of the non-conference. I wouldn't do that again, but it definitely prepared us to get here."

The Grizzlies regrouped to win their last five games, winning the Mid-Continent

44 We understand our record is not what some people think it should be. We make no apologies.??

> Greg Kampe Oakland coach

Conference tournament title by pulling off three upsets on consecutive days by a total of seven points to grab their first NCAA tournament bid. It took Pierre Dukes' three-pointer with 1.3 seconds left for Oakland to upset top-seeded Oral Roberts 61-60 in the final.

That shot extended the streak to four years in a row that a team with a losing record has made it into the NCAA field.

Asked what the 0-7 record says about Oakland's players, Alabama A&M forward Martin said, "They're tough. They didn't get down on themselves. They kept playing and they found a way."

A&M's problems weren't on the court. They won the Southwestern Athletic Conference's regular-season title and then rolled to the conference's tournament championship to also make their first trip to the NCAA tournament.

Before the season started, coach Vann

Pettaway called his team together to tell them that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. His doctors suggested he leave the team to receive treatment but he returned for what has become a magical ride.

"Basketball has been good medicine for

me," he said. "They (the doctors) told me to take the year off, but there's no way I could have made it without basketball."

The best medicine he could have received this season was working with his players.

"When I was first diagnosed, everything fell apart. I was through," Pettaway said. "I heard the word cancer and the first thing I thought of was death."

Pettaway will complete radiation treatments when this season ends.

Accustomed to learning X's and O's, his

players picked up a larger lesson in toughness from him.

"It motivated us," Bulldogs star guard Obie Trotter said of his coach's struggle. "That's the type of person he is. He never gave up."

Pettaway is 384-181 in 19 seasons at the 6,000-student school in Normal, Ala., guiding the transition from Division II to Division I in 1999.

Kampe has spent 21 years at Oakland, a campus of 16,500 students in Rochester, Mich., going 348-254 while also leading the move up to Division I.

After all those years on the sidelines, both coaches are enjoying finally making it into the tournament. Neither is worrying about what happens next — win and receive the dubious honor of playing top-seeded North Carolina in its home state on Friday.

Their players refuse to look at the play-in game as an overlooked bout on the undercard.

"It's still the only college game that's being played tomorrow night," Oakland's Cortney Scott said. "I consider it an NCAA tournament game. And we need to win it to continue on."

Slumping Terps, Irish get second chance

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Maryland and Notre Dame faltered down the stretch, and now they'll have to finish their seasons in the NIT

"One of our goals was to win the national championship, and right now we're not in the tournament," Maryland forward Nik Caner-Medley said Sunday. "As a team we tournament.' didn't reach our goals, so I'm disappointed."

Maryland (16-12) lost five of six, including the last four, and was eliminated by Clemson in the first round of the ACC tournament.

The rough finish helped snap its school-record 11 straight trips to the NCAA day against Oral Roberts, which is making its

first postseason appearance in eight years. "This is something our guys will be excited about, especially playing Maryland and play-ing on national TV," Oral Roberts coach Scott Sutton said. "We'll be playing in front of the entire country.

Notre Dame is making its second straight trip to the NIT after losing four of its last five, including an embarrassing 72-65 loss to last-place Rutgers in the first-round of the Big East tournament. Coach Mike Brey felt one more win probably would have clinched an NCAA berth

'You can say all you want, we had opportu-

nities," Brev said, "You had chances to nail it and you didn't nail it.' Instead, the Fighting Irish will face Holy

Cross (24-6) Tuesday in South Bend.
The 68th National Invitation Tournament started Monday with Western Michigan beating Marquette 54-40. The final is on March 31

at Madison Square Garden.
Conference USA had five schools selected for the 68th NIT, the ACC and Mid-American

Conference each had four teams chosen, and the Colonial Athletic Association had three. America East is sending two teams - Northeastern and Boston University — to the tour-nament for the first time. The Big East, Big 12, Pac-10 and Southeastern Conference each



The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE - Levi Rost had 18 points and Brian Snyder added 11 to lead Western Michigan over Marquette 54-40 in the first round of the NIT on Monday

Marquette (19-12) was without leading scorer Travis Diener, who sustained a season-ending hand injury in practice Feb. 22.

"What concerned us was they played four games already with-out Travis and we didn't have film on any of them," Western Michigan coach Steve Hawkins

Marquette, making its second straight trip to the NIT after reaching the NCAA Final Four in 2003, made a season-low one three-pointer in 21 attempts.

The game tonight was certainly not how we built the program during my first six years here," Marquette coach Tom Crean said. "You cannot let your offensive woes carry over to the other end and give up easy baskets. You just can't do it."

The Broncos (20-12) won their first game of the NIT for the second time in three years and will play the winner of Wednesday's matchup between Texas Christian and Miami (Ohio) in the secand round

Brian Snider added 11 points for the Western Michigan, which had its best defensive game since beating Central Michigan 84-39 on Jan. 29.

Sophomore Dameon Mason led Marquette with 14 points, while Marcus Jackson had 11 rebounds. The Golden Eagles were held to less than 40 points for the second time in three games.

Western Michigan scored the first five points of the second half to open a 32-23 lead. But Todd Townsend scored eight of Marquette's first 10 points to help the

Golden Eagles close to 37-33. Marquette then went 5:14 without a point and 6:19 without a field goal, and Western Michigan took a 42-33 lead on Rost's second

three-pointer of the half Marquette has lost 10 of 15. "I never pictured going out like

this," said Townsend, a senior, NIT



Hofstra (21-8) at Saint Joseph's (19-11) Davidson (21-8) at Virginia Comm ealth (19-12)

Westin (19-12) Houston (18-13) at Wichita State (20-9) Rice (19-11) at Southwest Missouri State 18-12) Kent State (20-12) at Western Kentucky

91-8)
Denver (20-10) at San Francisco (16-13)
CS Fullerton (19-10) at Oregon State

17-14)
First Round
Monday
Western Michigan 54, Marguette 40 Holy Cross (24-6) at Notre Dame (17-11) Miami (16-12) at South Carolina (15-13) Temple (16-13) at Virginia Tech (15-13)
Temple (16-13) at Virginia Tech (15-13)
DePaul (19-10) at Missouri (16-16)

Wednesday
Texas Christian (19-13) at Miami (Ohio)
(19-10)

Boston U. (20-8) at Georgetown (17-12) Northeastern (21-9) at Memphis (19-15)

Northeastern (21-9) at Memphis (19-15) Vanderbit (18-13) at Indiana (15-13) Clemson (16-15) at Texas A&N (19-9) Oral Roberts (25-3 Texas A&N (19-9) Arizona State (18-13) at UNLV (16-13) Pates T&N (18-13) at UNLV (16-13) Rice/SW Missouri St. vs. Davidson/VCU CS Fullerton/Oregon St. vs. Denver/San ancisco Kent St./W. Kentucky vs. Houston/Wichita

St. Drexel/Buffalo vs. Hofstra/Saint Joseph's



Nevada's Chad Bell stands on the sideline during the second half of No. 24 Nevada's 73-72 loss to Boise State during the second round of the Western Athletic Conference tournament. The loss ended a 10-game winning streak for Nevada, which earned a No. 9 seed in the NCAA tournament.

WAC loss could help No. 9 Nevada focus

BY SCOTT SONNER

The Associated Press

RENO, Nev. - As painful as it was for Nevada to end a 10-game winning streak in its opening league tourney game on its own floor, Nick Fazekas figures it may turn out to be just what the doctor ordered. "It probably helps us to lose,

Fazekas said Monday as No. 9 seed Nevada (24-6) prepares to face No. 8 seed Texas (20-10) in the opening round of the NCAA tournament at Indianapolis on Thursday. "I think we were getting a little

too comfortable. We probably needed to lose," said the 6-foot-11 sonhomore named the Western Athletic Conference player of the Nevada, the WAC's regular sea-

son champs, had won 20 of their before eighth-seeded Boise State stunned them 73-72 with a last-second rebound off a missed free throw in the league quarterfinals last Thursday night. Coach Mark Fox said the Wolf

Pack will need all the help they

off the Longhorns, who are making their seventh straight NCAA appearance and advanced to the round of 16 each of the past three

"Texas has the kind of team that can make another deep run into the tournament." Fox told renorters on a teleconference call after watching videotape of

"They've got weapons everywhere. They have a coach that has taken a team to the Final Four. They are just terrific," he said Monday.

At times it sounded like Fox was raving about top-ranked Illinois - the team the winner of the Nevada-Texas game is likely to face - instead of the Longhorn squad that lost six of its last 11 and fell to Colorado in the Big 12 tournament.

"I knew they would be good defensively because I know what a great coach Rick Barnes is... On top of that, they are better offensively than I ever imagined." Fox

Brad Buckman, a 6-foot-8 junior averaging 12 points and 8.2 rebounds a game, and Jason Klotz, a 6-foot-9 senior averaging 11 points and 5.8 rebounds a game, are the best big-men tandem we've seen and (Daniel) Gibson is the best guard by far we'll play against all year," Fox said.

Gibson, a freshman, is average ing 14.4 points, 4 assists and 3.6 rebounds per game. Fox said he watched him play in high school.

"Everybody said at the time he is going to be in the NBA and I don't think there is any question about that. It doesn't look like he has a weakness to be honest with vou." Fox said.

"What he does for Texas, he could probably do for the (NBA's Dallas) Mavericks," Fox said. He's "explosive. He can beat you with the three-point shot, he can beat you in transition, he can beat you at the rim."

Barnes returned the compliments, suggesting in a separate call with reporters that Nevada likely would have finished among the top teams in the Big 12 Conference this year.

said. "I like the consistency they have shown. I think that stands out. "They have five players back from a Sweet Sixteen team last year. They are one of the hottest teams in the country. They had won 10 straight before their conference tournament," he said.

In addition to Fazekas, Barnes said he has been impressed with the play of freshman point guard Ramon Sessions.

"They are not going to be wide-eyed about going to the NCAA tournament. With the kind of year they've had, they have to be confident and feeling good about themselves," Barnes said. Fazekas, who ranks 12th in the

nation averaging 21.5 points per game and 20th in rebounds with 9.4 per game, said he expects a physical game against the Longhorns but has gotten used to that facing double coverage in WAC nlay. His nose was broken in the regular season finale at San Jose State and he'll continue to wear a protective mask in NCAA play.

"The mask is no big deal. I don't even know it is on my face anymore." Fazekas said.

SPORTS



Redskins hot on heels of Brown after former No. 1 overall pick cut by Cleveland, Page 31

Lined up for the slaughter

Tournament limelight is short, bittersweet for sacrificial seeds

The Associated Press

airleigh coach Tom Green was going over potential NCAA tournament matchups, daydreaming about his Knights playing Wake Forest. Or Washington. Maybe even North Carolina

Daydreaming? Sounds more like a nightmare.

And 16th-seeded FDU wound up even worse than Green imagined, facing the biggest seed of them all, overall No. 1 Illinois on Thursday

"Realistically, we know what a long shot it is," Green said Monday. "It's a huge challenge, to say the least.

That's life for the NCAA tourna ment's little guys. Getting a bid gives small schools like Fairleigh Dickinson, Richmond and Coppin State publicity and national exposure they'd never get otherwise.

But teams seeded 15th and 16th don't get much of a chance to enjoy the limelight, usually gone by the end of the first round in a blowout to one of college basketball's powerhouses.

"I told our players earlier in the week . . . we're going to have to upset somebody," said Travis Ford, whose 15th-seeded Eastern Kentucky squad goes up against No. 2 seed Kentucky on Thursday. "We're going to be an under-

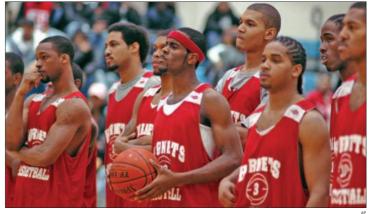
dog, I can guarantee you that.' No 16th seed has ever beaten a No. 1 since the tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985, and only four No. 15s have upended a second seed. Richmond heat Syracuse 73-69 in 1991. Santa Clara upset Arizona 64-61 in 1993, Coppin State stunned South Carolina 78-65 in 1997, and Hampton surprised Iowa State in 2001.

But those few upsets enough to give every small school hope, no matter how faint.
"It's happened four times for a

Because it's possible, said Michael Haney, a forward for Eastern Kentucky

Haney isn't delusional, just optimistic. Those 15th seeds that pulled off upsets were just like his team and the others that were hard at work Monday, preparing to play behemoths such as Illinois, Duke and Connecticut.

OK, so Santa Clara had Steve Nash when the Broncos knocked off No. 2 Arizona in 1993. But these schools have guys who can play, too. Haney ranks fifth in the country in field goal percentage, shooting a blistering 63 percent,



Delaware State players, first-time Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champions, participate in a celebration in their honor on Monday in Dover, Del. Delaware State (19-13) is the No. 16 seed in the Austin Regional and will face Duke (25-5) in a first-round game on Friday in Charlotte, N.C.

while Obie Trotter of Alabama A&M — the ultimate sacrificial seed as one of the teams in the play-in game - leads the country

Besides, the law of averages says a No. 16 has to beat a No. 1 one of these days.

Western Carolina came close in 1996, missing two shots in the closing seconds to fall to Purdue 73-71. In 1989, two No. 1s got scares. Georgetown edged Prince ton 50-49, but the Hoyas needed two blocks by Alonzo Mourning in the final six seconds. Oklahoma escaped with a 72-71 win after East Tennessee State missed a shot in the final second.

"It goes back to the saying, 'Respect everyone but fear no one. Ford said

And, really, for those schools coming out of the smaller conferences, is there a difference between playing, say, top-seeded Duke and No. 4 Louisville

"There's more and more parisaid Central Florida coach Kirk Speraw, whose team is seeded 15th for a second straight year and plays No. 2 Connecticut on Friday. "You take the first 15 Friday. "You take the first 15 teams in the country, maybe 44 It's probably the biggest long shot ever as far as a 16 seed knocking off a team with one loss.

Tom Green

Fairleigh Dickinson coach

they're a notch above because of a couple of players. But you take programs 25 through 125, and how much difference is there really? I think that spread is getting narrower all the time."

Still, they know they're long shots. In Illinois, Green's squad gets a team that has lost one measly game all year. When Green and his assistants were making their scouting report, they looked for even the slightest weakness, and came up empty.

"It's probably the biggest long shot ever as far as a 16 seed knocking off a team with one loss," Green acknowledged. "I'm going to tell them point-blank a 16 has never beaten a 1." he added.

"I'll tell them about the history of the game a little bit. And tell them we have to play well this week.

But even if they wind up being an answer to a trivia question only diehard fans will remember five years from now, there are worse things than being a 15th and 16th seed. They at least have one more game to play.

This is their big chance to shine, too, with more attention on them in the next three or four days than the entire rest of the season. How many people knew Richmond's nickname was the Spiders before its big upset? Or that Coppin State was in Maryland? And if one of the little guys does pull off an upset — or even makes a serious run — it's guaranteed an arena full of fans. When UCF played Pittsburgh close in its first-round game last year, the Wisconsin fans at the Bradley Center jumped on the Golden Knights' bandwagon so fast it almost tipped over. Pitt eventually won, 53-44

"It's great exposure for programs like ours, certainly on a national level. And it has a long shelf life," Speraw said. "People remember you were in the tournament



■ Coaches don't see humor in Kentucky-E. Kentucky matchup Page 33

■ Be aware of these trends before filling out your bracket

and that's obviously good for your school, your academic programs and your athletic programs.

And maybe, just maybe, this will be the year for a historic upset.

"You'd like to think it's going to happen someday, but it hasn't happened in 20 years," Green said. "Hopefully it'll happen in my lifetime, but we'll see.

Selig willing to testify; players' status uncertain Page 28

